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REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING

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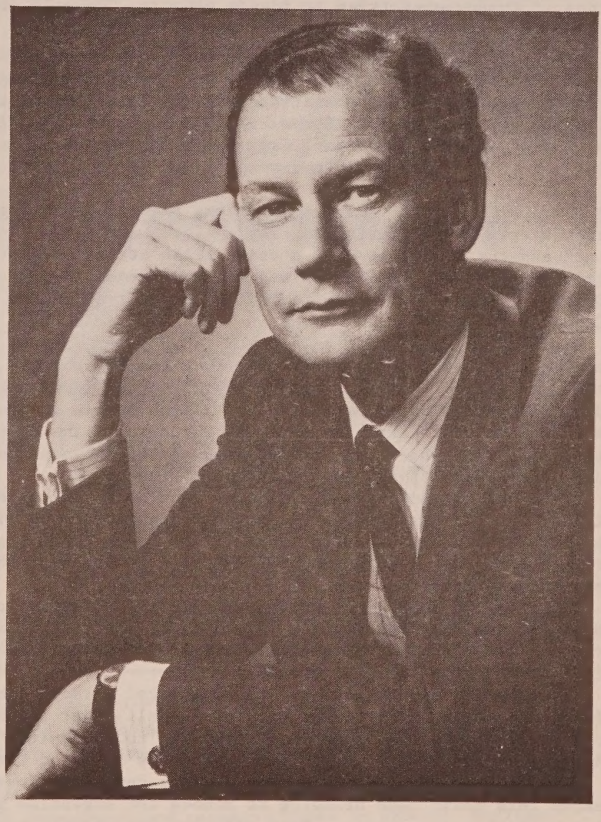

TIM COUSENS
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Edited and published by Glenn Hauser

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Issue Thirty-Seven Mar'80

LISTENER INSIGHTS on PROGRAMMING

A L B A N I A (Tim Hendel, Miami FL) Some of the best fun I've had lately has been listening to Radio Tirana. Yes, you heard right, Radio Tirana! Evenings, midnight GMT, 7165 /7065 -gh/. It has been interesting to observe how they now criticize not only the US and USSR, but roundly denounce China also. And one notes that they no longer relay Radio Peking. I love their adjectives, and extreme sentences. Recently I heard a talk called "Doctrines of the Gens D'Armes and the Murderers of the Peoples." "Strangling and Bringing to Their Knees." "Are neither intimidated nor have they been subdued". "The imperialist powers will be stranded like a fish out of water." "The new neocolonialist and hegemonic doctrines will end up in the wastepaper basket." "USSR revisionist mafia." And best of all, a quote from Comrade Enver Hoxha, who stated that if anyone ever tried to invade Albania, "We will stick in your throat like a bone until we choke you to death."

(Workers Advocate via John Fisher, Chelmsford MA; Don't you believe the frequencies)

(Steve Knudde, Providence RI) Last month's comment on WWV is also an exact description of Radio Tirana. Dull programming, tedious limited vocabulary (Marx-Lenin-socialist-worker-struggle-revolution) and the repetition of the word "imperialist" every 10 seconds for a 25-minute interval signal. The Imperialist States of America, Union of Soviet Imperialist Republics, Imperialist Republic of China. If you could look at an Albanian radio country list, you'd throw up!

A N T A R C T I C A (Carlos Maslatón, Buenos Aires, Argentina; translated by gh) I just got back from a trip thru Bolivia and find the December RIB. Naturally your comments about "Argentine Antarctic" and the Esperanza Base station LRA36 attract my attention. Almost identical comments were broadcast in your Espacio DXista report on Radio Nederland December 14th, according to what several DXing colleagues have told me and as can be read in the No. 19 Jan/Feb bulletin of the Marpla DX Club.

Your affirmation that Antarctica is an international continent is indisputable. This is not overlooked in Argentina; it's only that the governments have tried to popularize the idea of Argentine domination over a sector of the white continent. For example, textbooks of primary and secondary students clearly establish that Argentina is composed of a continental part, an insular part, and an Antarctic part. In this way the area of the country is doubled. This intentional popularization has the objective of creating a 'national conscience' which could be advantageous if it is ever decided to divide up the frozen continent.

Now, this erroneous and misguided idea does not correspond to a military dictatorship with rampant inflation. It has been spread without distinction by all the civil and military governments of this century as soon as Argentine expeditions began to be organized toward Antarctica. A very intense campaign of this kind began in 1973 with the peronist government, and this was imitated by the present government.

It is of no importance whether a country has inflation or not in determining its jurisdiction over this or that territory. International law is based only on historical domination, geographic factors (such as the continental shelf), on recognized natural standards, and on agreements deriving from conventions between nations.

It is precisely with regard to historical reasons (they belonged to Spain) and geographic ones (they are on the Argentine continental shelf) that the Falkland or Malvinas Islands belong to Argentina (both names should be used according to the United Nations). This case has nothing to do with Antarctica and such a comparison is totally uncalled for.

Two final questions about LRA-36. One cannot seriously doubt its real location or deny it, because this would mean branding as humbug the Argentine government and consequently all public opinion, which is impossible. Both official and private representatives of the media have visited the station, making television reports on its installations, which is commonly done with other Argentine bases in Antarctica as well. Reliable journalists have been there, and reception on 6029 kHz does not offer anything out of the ordinary. Reception in Argentina was never better than QRK 2-3.

One can be against the military government which is governing us (which I am but for somewhat different reasons than my political DX colleagues abroad) but it is impossible to deny that the media and Argentine public opinion are functioning and are developing as in any other free country--it is extremely difficult for the authorities to lie about matters of any kind. In a certain way there is army control of power and of what the government does and says on behalf of the population. The truth cannot be lacking; Argentina is not surrounded by an iron curtain!

"LRA-36 is the first radio station in Antarctica and the most southerly in the world", the authorities repeated during its first days on the air. This tragicomic error, I am almost certain, was

the result of ignorance on the part of broadcasting authorities. I have made it my personal mission to put the lie to this statement not only in the DX world, but thru Argentine daily newspapers. One of them published my correction containing the latitude of McMurdo at 77°51' S, compared to Esperanza Base at 63°24' S. The people in charge of Radio Nacional Buenos Aires contacted me expressing their total ignorance of the existence of the AFAN McMurdo station and criticizing the men of the Armed Forces for not knowing about it. They did not have a WRTVH. Obviously, they no longer maintain that LRA-36 is the most southerly station.

gh: Thanks for a much more convincing and moderate reply than that coming from the Marpla DX Club. I did not mean to imply that there was a connexion between inflation and neocolonialism; I was rather lamenting that a sector of that pure, white continent which ought to be preserved unspoiled for the scientific benefit of mankind, was now being claimed by a government which had such negative aspects as militarism and inability to control inflation. I realize too that the Falklands Islands case is a different one; however, what is never reported in Argentina, it seems, is that most of the inhabitants of the F.I. prefer to be a colony of Britain, and that should be a final determinant of a territory's political status. Since Britain has divested of almost all its colonial empire, it is hard to believe that it is Britain tenaciously holding onto the Falklands, but instead the Falklanders tenaciously holding onto Britain. There was an Argentine DX report that LRA-36 was QRK-5!

(Roberto Levinstein, Feb WDXC Contact) The Palmer Peninsula is also known as O'Higgins Peninsula. The area from which LRA-36 is reported to broadcast is also claimed by both Chile and Great Britain. There are also at least two Chilean Navy radio stations operating irregularly nearby the same area: one of them had a live link-up broadcast with R. Nacional de Chile's home service recently.

A R G E N T I N A (Robert L. Hoffmann II, New Hyde Park NY) I think Art Getzel missed the point (RIB 35, p. 19) "Those poor people, what a 'gem' they have inherited!?" That 'poor' is in sympathy. Ya see, the only free speech Argentina--and MARPLA--recognize is their own (the government and the club). Since Jacobo Timerman dared to campaign for free speech, he's a 'gem'. Argentina also cannot understand free speech. They seem to think that all countries shackle journalists like they do. So, Israel and IBA are 'poor' people for getting someone dealing in free speech--Timerman, in Argentina 's warped way.

(Tony Jones, Paraguay) Shortly after I sent you the info on R. El Mundo (Jan. RIB p. 9) the station dropped the program DEL FOLKLORE LO MEJOR, and put in its place an absolute load of rubbish.

A U S T R A L I A (Dave Mosier, San Jose CA) I enjoy listening to Radio Australia's news reports. They cover both world news and Australian news in brief at the top of each hour, and (weekends excluded) they follow that up with either INTERNATIONAL REPORT, FOCUS, or EDITORIAL OPINION. All of which interest me. If Radio Australia would remove their singing IDs and would replace the Leif Garrett music with something more intelligent, then they could really fly.

Argentina dissidents

Jerusalem Post Staff

LONDON. — Jewish prisoners in Argentina are singled out for especially harsh treatment, according to two escaped political prisoners from Argentina whose eye-witness account of treatment of dissidents is the basis of an Amnesty International report on the South American country.

The report by the London-based human rights group, estimates that hundreds of people have been systematically tortured and killed since 1976.

The account includes descriptions of especially harsh treatment said to have been given to Jews who, the two men said, were made to kneel before pictures of Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini and denounce their origins. Thousands of people have reportedly "disappeared" in Argentina since the March 1976 coup that brought Gen. Jorge Videla to power.

The report was prepared by Oscar Alfredo Gonzalez, 29, a factory worker, and Horacio Guillermo Cid de la Paz, 22, a former student leader. They said the fate of most of the battered prisoners culminates in a Nazi-style transfer which, they said, is a euphemism for death.

The two escapees say that Jewish prisoners were interrogated during torture not only about their political ideas but also about the Jewish community in Argentina. Names and addresses of Jews, diagrams of synagogues, clubs and business premises owned by Jews were diligently collected. "From the moment they were kidnapped until they were included in a 'transfer' they (the Jews) were systematically tortured," the two claim.

(Jerusalem Post, Int'l Ed., Feb. 10-16, 1980)

A U S T R I A (Arthur Ward, WDXC Contact) ORF in their SHORTWAVE PANORAMA gave some facts on listener mail. David Hermges said that 99% of all correspondence received comes in German, English, French and Spanish, the 4 languages used by this service, with about one sixth of this total being in French and Spanish. English has a slight edge over German (the home tongue) in total and is certainly spread more evenly and wider from the various areas of the world outside Europe. More English letters come from USA than Great Britain. French comes mainly from France, also Algeria and Zaire, plus a small number from Canada.

B E L G I U M (David Monson, BRT Mailbag, Feb. 5) Belgium has a lot to show and to say for itself. I always have believed that there's more relatively speaking to see in Belgium - a small country, about 250 km from north to south - that's from the Flemish Dutch border to the Wallonian French border in the south and then between 200 and 300 km wide - more to see in Belgium than in many other countries of similar dimensions. There's a rich variety of all the good things in Belgium - and most notably in that part of the country we happen to speak for each night of the week - Flanders,

the home of the Dutch speaking community - the Flemish, the Flemings, take your pick - but don't call them the Flamingos - as I've heard someone do - or the Lemmings as I've heard someone else do. Well, each night of the week we try and inform you - tell you in our own conversational sort of way here - about this community - and we do that from our studios in the central radio and television buildings situated in the Brussels commune - one of the nineteen communes in Brussels - of Schaarbeek, which is also the biggest residential area in all Belgium. In April we'll be changing - not the format of the programme - but the scenario. On two days during five consecutive weeks we'll be taking our studio into the Flemish provinces - in other words broadcasting this programme live from a mobile studio in some of the principal Flemish towns and cities - what you call taking radio right into the very heart of the Flemish community - giving them some idea of the service they give to you the listener, for it is their programme as much as it is yours. And they - the people themselves - will be given an opportunity to participate in our broadcast.....and you'll have the opportunity in turn to hear, to listen to, the authentic voice of the Flemish community. My colleagues and myself will be talking to (not all at once) the crowds - or one or two persons in the crowds - and to one or two VIPs in the studio - the people responsible for administering that particular local community - and the province in which it happens to - not exist here - we also live. We'll continue to have lively music in the programme - with a difference though in that it'll most probably be provided by the musicians in person, giving us a sample of local music in the live. All in all it's going to make for a fun and - I hope - informative time for all. I'm certainly going to learn a lot in re-reading, re-exploring and talking about - describing - the places we visit for you in Brussels Calling. And when is it going to be exactly - during the month of April - beginning on April 2nd and 3rd - and then each Tuesday and Wednesday there after for five weeks. Five whole weeks - and after all that, the Board of Directors here are either going to suspend me or give me a King size bonus - suspend me from the new radio tower eighty metres high - and still rising. It's all going to go - I'm sure - splendidly - just provided of course that by that time they've given us a decent frequency and you're able to hear us. Why don't - talking about suspension, VOA and Radio Moscow just suspend their broadcasts during that period, and you'll hear us perfectly! Hearing us perfectly mind you might just put you off altogether - and cause a flood of mail to Moscow's mailbag - pleading for a return to the airwaves !

B E L I Z E (Gordon Byrd, The Skywave Bulletin) R. Belize program schedule for February 1980, dated Feb. 1, via Ernesto Vásquez, program director; English language evening programs on 834 kHz; EST:

Saturday
1930 PROGRAMME SUMMARY
1935 GOLDEN OLDIES
2000 NEWS + WEATHER
2010 ANNOUNCEMENTS
2015 NOTICIAS + PROGNÓSTICO
2020 ANNOUNCEMENTS
2030 CHARGERS TOP TEN
2130 BRIGHT, BEAUTIFUL & BAD
2200 BBC NEWS RELAY
2209 WEATHER + ANNOUNCEMENTS
2215 SAT. NIGHT/MUSIC NIGHT
2400 NATIONAL PRAYER
2410 CLOSEDOWN

gh: Presumably times and days unaccounted for are in Spanish. I've noticed that the local news Wed. 2400 is bilingual, item by item.

Sunday
1930 SUNDAY REQUEST
2000 NEWSCAST
2010 WEATHER + ANNOUNCEMENTS
2015 NOTICIAS + PROGNÓSTICO
2020 ANNOUNCEMENTS
2030 SPORTING WORLD
2100 SUN. NIGHT/MOVIE NIGHT
2130 AFRICAN THEATRE
2200 NEWS + WEATHER
2210 ANNOUNCEMENTS
2215 CLASSICAL CHOICE
2245 CLITHEROE KID
2315 REVERIE
2400 NATIONAL PRAYER
2410 CLOSEDOWN

Monday-Friday (cont'd)
2320 Fri HOW TALENTED YOU ARE
2400 EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK
2410 ANTHEM + CLOSE DOWN

Monday-Friday
1930 ANNOUNCEMENTS + ADS + MUSIC
1955 DISCOVERING BELIZE
2000 NEWS AT SEVEN
2040 Mon HROU /?-gh/ AND YOU
Tue FROM THE GAZETTE
2045 LEAVE HER TO HEAVEN
2100 Mon YOUTH ON THE MOVE
Tue OUR TOWN COUNTRY
Wed EDUCATION IN ACTION
Thu CHALLENGING 80s
Fri YOUR GOOD HEALTH
2115 Tue & Fri WORLD OF EDUCATION
Wed MID WEEK SHOW
2130 Tue BDF REQUEST
Thu POLAR PAK CALLING
Fri WEEKEND SPECIAL
2200 BBC WORLD NEWS
2209 BOLEDO DRAW
2215 Tue DISCOVERING BELIZE
2230 Mon MEN FROM THE MINISTRY
Tue A DATE WITH THE STAR
Wed THAT SPECIAL TOUCH
Thu YESTER HITS
Fri ROCK ON
2300 EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK
2310 SPORTS REPORT
2320 Mon & Thu COUNTRY & WESTERN
Tue JAZZIN' 80
Wed THEIR VOICES LIVE ON /to left/

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B O L I V I A (Tony Jones, Paraguay) R. Progreso, 6005 kHz, has introduced a weekday news bulletin at 0330-0400 consisting of quite a lot of local news items.

B R A Z I L (Tony Jones, Paraguay) I heartily endorse Roberto Levinstein's remarks in Jan RIB. People who switch off A VOZ DO BRASIL usually do so because it is, by its very nature, extremely heavy programming in comparison with most

of the usual fare. On the question of the overall performance of Brazilian radio stations, it is true to say that there are some which are downright abominable -- almost as bad as some small town stations in the U.S. - but there are others which are in a class of their own. Radio Guaíba's easy listening format may not be to everyone's taste, but the superbly professional presentation and good audio quality have to be admired, while its sports commentaries are of a very high standard, surpassing those of the much praised Radio Rivadavia in Buenos Aires. On the programming side, there are such gems as NOITE DE JAZZ from São Paulo (Wed & Sun at 0130 GMT on 700 kHz) which at times has some absolutely stunning blues selections. While there are, from time to time, some entertaining programs on Argentinian radio, the general standard is much higher on the Brazilian side of the border.

gh: I hope many of you caught AN EVENING OF BRAZILIAN TELEVISION on your PBS station, as described at right from the WETV Atlanta program guide. The mélange of Rede-Globo programs was most entertaining and impressive in their production quality, but as would make sense, was obviously edited tape. The live portion of the program was only about 15 minutes toward the end, and was rather disappointing. Instead of hand-held cameras involving us in the frenzy of the carnaval in the streets of Rio, we were mere onlookers to a parade of rather nicely done costumed dancers in a large arena interior. Nevertheless, plaudits to WPBT Miami for putting such a show on American TV, even if it did have to be underwritten by the Brazilian tourist agency. Similar things could be done with other Latin TV systems, though perhaps only Mexico and Venezuela, and perhaps Puerto Rico could come up to this standard.

THE BEST OF BRAZILIAN TELEVISION IS SHOWCASED FEBRUARY 18

AN EVENING OF BRAZILIAN TELEVISION, a 90-minute special hosted by Candice Bergen, will bring live satellite coverage of the Annual Brazilian Carnival — famous for its color, pageantry, and excitement — to Channel 30 viewers Monday, February 18, at 10 p.m.

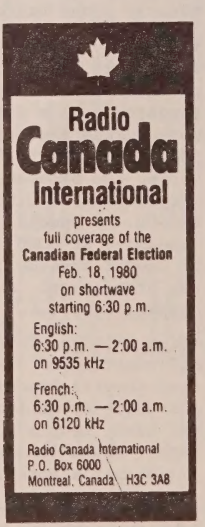
This satellite interconnection marks the first time that Latin American programming has been brought live by satellite to a national public television audience.

Samples of the best commercials and popular programs, from Brazil's Rede Globo the world's fourth largest television network, will be included in the telecast. "Fantastico," a weekly show that blends music, drama, and mini-documentaries will be featured, as well as "Chico City," hosted by Brazil's best-known comic and master impersonator Chico Anisio.

Also featured is a concert by the Brazil Symphony, presenting the music of leading Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobo. Other musical segments of the special include a panoramic profile of contemporary Brazilian performers and composers, such as Tom Jobim, Roberto Carlos, and Elis Regina.

Brazilian life, art and culture as it is featured on Rede Globo is the focal point of the program. Everything from sports to classical music, disco to drama, news to comedy is covered in this colorful, vibrant public television special.

C A N A D A (Cary Lu, Watertown MA) Here's an ad from the Feb. 17 Boston Globe. It is the only time I can remember seeing an ad for shortwave broadcasts in an American newspaper; I have no idea how widely printed it was.



gh: RCI's special frequency schedule for election coverage arrived just too late for the last issue of RIB. They really went all-out with the European relays as well; and that 6120 for French at right was borrowed from BBC via Sackville. They certainly picked the wrong frequency to publicize for English, however. 5960 should have been much better than 9535 in Boston.

(RCI African Service) An introduction to our weekend broadcasts: Saturday, in the 1800 GMT broadcast, CANADA À LA CARTE, Bob Cadman and Ian McFarland with a mixture of conversation and items about many different aspects of life in Canada. There's very little that's beyond the scope of this program; listeners' suggestions for topics are welcome. Sats on the 1900 program, after the news, the weekly music feature THE MUSIC SHOPPE with Ian McFarland. On the first program of each month, what's happening on the Canadian National Top 40 Hit Parade; 2nd Sat, African Music Hit Parade, tracks from top-selling African music albums here in Canada. On the other programs during the month, a full range of music styles is featured: Folk, Jazz, Classical, MOR, plus interviews and profiles of performers. P.S. Ian plays country music too. Sat 2130, the first broadcast of our mailbag, BONSOIR AFRICA with Bob & Ian, answering questions from listeners both in Africa and wherever else the program is heard. Musical requests are played both on BONSOIR AFRICA and CANADA À LA CARTE.

Sundays: 1800, DX DIGEST part one, followed by SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE with Aldo Marchini /usually it's prepared by Steven Freygood -gh/, repeated Mondays at 1915. Sundays 1900, repeat broadcast from yesterday at 2130 of BONSOIR AFRICA. Sundays 2130, ACCENT, in-depth looks at a wide variety of interesting topics such as UFOs, the Canadian North, religious cults, the Canadian seal hunt, to name just a few covered recently.

Our Monday to Friday broadcasts keep you up-to-date and informed about current events, with Canadian and world news, commentaries and press reviews, reports from our correspondents abroad, and interesting items about Canadian events and concerns.

So there you have an outline of what's on the menu on the RCI African Service. We sincerely hope you'll join us. Variety is the spice of life - and on the African Service you'll find a good deal of variety to spice up your shortwave listening life.

Frequencies: 1800 & 1900 17820 & 15260. 2130 17875, 17820, 15325, 15150, 11945 kHz.

(Ian McFarland, RCI) The projected move /of RCI from the Maison de Radio-Canada/ across the street and down the road has already been partly done. The non-production departments, such as administration, audience mail etc. moved over the first weekend in February. The various target area sections move the weekend of Feb. 23. Had it not been for the election on Feb. 18 we would have moved sooner. So, as of Feb. 25 (our 35th anniversary, ironically) our broadcasts will be coming from new studios, equipped with filters, etc. so that bassy voices like mine will come out sounding somewhat less so, and will consequently sound better on the air.

(Robert L. Hoffmann II, New Hyde Park NY) Well, I wrote to RCI about its programming. That did not even draw a reply, so here's the proposal I suggested. I'm either in school or doing homework during the afternoon, so I can only hear the one RCI North American broadcast. I suggested two broadcasts during standard time, program one at 0100 & 0300, program two at 0200 & 0400. A special daylight time extra could be scheduled at 0000. Now, with the MAILBAG and DX DIGEST together, how about 4 different Sunday broadcasts? Ah well, I know it won't happen, but....

(Mike Bolitho, Toronto, Ont.) "Myopia about RCI's attitude" ? Me? Nonsense. I may be somewhat shortsighted in this respect, but I fail to see where my attitude towards RCI has justified the term 'myopia'. It is true that I must wear rather thick-lensed glasses, but since when was a listener's opthalmic problem a topic for RIB?

We are the CBC

In 7 days we just might change the way you listen to radio...

(George J. Munz, S. Hackensack NJ) Barbara Frum sure does her homework; great questions and many times does not agree with the answers she gets. Here 7 miles from New York I have no problems with RCI/CBC NS reception. 11850 and 5960 are both like a local NY station.

gh: Blurb at left is for CBC Radio Week, Feb. 24-Mar. 1, details of which again missed our deadline. When will they learn to take RIB publishing schedule into account? Hi. The promotion apparently much-needed, as in article on next page it is revealed that only 3% of Canadians listen to CBC Stereo once a week and only 14% to CBC Radio!

Barbara Says As It Happens Is Most Fascinating Thing To Do

November 18, As It Happens is 11 years old. When it began in 1968, the program was heard once a week. In 1971 it became a daily, Monday to Friday show with Barbara Frum as host. The Guide talked to her:

How did I get into radio? I just decided I wanted to do it and I walked into CBC.

"I think the world was a much more open place in those days. In the mid-60s you could knock on people's doors and they would give you an opportunity if you had a good idea that you wanted to try."

Barbara was a married woman with a history degree, two infants and a hunch she could be a good journalist. She also thought she could work at home. So, she bought a tape machine and knocked on doors.

Soon she was doing mini-documentaries for Audio and Trans-Canada Matinee. The year was 1964.

" When I started at the CBC I always felt encouraged to keep going. Terence Gibbs, Gloria Vizinczey, Lynn Higgins, Dorothea Cox, Helen James, Harry Boyle, Geraldine Sherman, Dodi Robb and many other gave me a lot of help and support. Now, with tight money, it's hard for programs to hire freelancers and contract people."

By 1967 she had moved into print as a freelance writer with the help and encouragement of Ralph Allen, then Managing Editor of the Toronto Daily Star.

"Ralph prided himself on bringing people along. I went to see him with a story about the Christmas Seal campaign raising more money than they could spend. He met with me two or three times to help me develop the story and make sure I had all the facts. Then he gave me a front-page, a red-headline and a byline.

"I don't think any paper would give an unknown a front page now."

Barbara became the Star's regular radio columnist for more than a year. During an interview with Margaret Lyons, then executive producer of CBC radio current affairs (Margaret is now Program Director of the CBC-Radio service, Bob Wagstaff heads CBC-Stereo), Barbara first heard of the CBC's plan for a whole new concept in radio journalism planned for the next year. The program was As It Happens.

Ironically, shortly after that, Barbara made another career move, but not back to radio. This time she went to CBC-TV, joining Ross McLean's Way It Is/Day It Is unit as host and interviewer for nearly three years.

"I had no career plan. I'm no Napoleon out to take Moscow. I don't know from one day to the next what I'm going to do."

In 1971 she returned to radio as co-host of As It Happens when the program became a five-nights-a-week 6:30 fixture in the CBC-Radio schedule.

"If anybody had asked me when I joined the program if I would still be here eight years later, I would have said no. But this is the most fascinating thing I have found to do."

As a woman, would it be harder or easier to get work with the CBC now, compared to when she started in 1964?

"It was definitely harder then. For some reason, maybe unofficial, it started to get easier around 1970. I don't know if there was an actual policy or a memo, but I suspect there was.

Barbara Frum, As It Happens

"On As It Happens almost from the minute I was there (Fall, 1971) we were 50/50. It was a deliberate effort. In fact, for most of the time there's been more women than men working on the program.

Until you've seen Barbara and the As It Happens team in action, you cannot appreciate the very hard work involved. (More about that in a future Program Guide.) Guest hosts are always ready to give the show back to Barbara. They can't take the pace. How does Barbara cope?

"There's some satisfaction in doing it because the show is so difficult. But, I'll tell you the truth, there's got to be at least one highpoint every week or I just couldn't carry on. Find out something I never knew once a week and I'm satisfied. That brings me in on Monday.

"This week for example, arguing with Flora MacDonald about whether or not her UN speech killed AECL deal with Argentina. That's a highpoint.

"Or this PCB thing we did tonight. To come out with the astounding fact that we are only checking a hundred eggs a year to see if they are safe and we are eating a hundred million a week!"

Somewhat ironically, Barbara cannot recall highpoints more than a few days later due to the huge volume of stories she handles every week. If she wants to stimulate her memory, she has to go back through transcripts and program lineups. Only then do the recollections come pouring out as in her 1976 book, As It Happened.

When asked if she has any fantasies, she warmed to the subject and offered three.

"I'd like to drive a cab. I don't know why, but I think I'd be good at it. Usually people want to talk when they're in the back seat. I'd have my back to them and I'd ask them good questions. That'd be amusing.

"I also have a fantasy that when I retire, I'll raise 300 dogs. I love dogs.

"Those are my do-able fantasies. My undoable fantasy is that I would love, love, love, to enter a time machine.

"I don't want to go forward, I'm not curious about the future. I don't think it'll be any different, just more plastic.

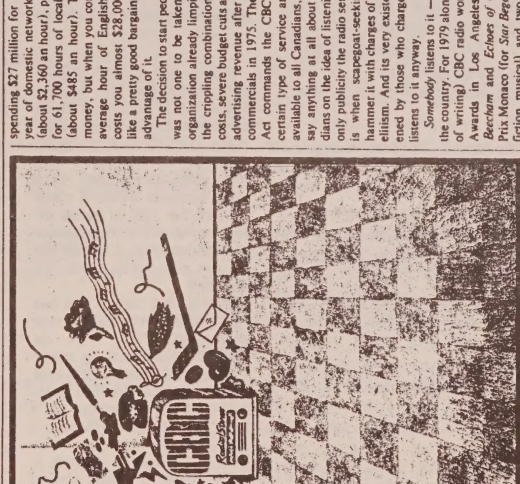
"But I'd love to go back. Not to the heroic battles or the great moments in time. I just want to walk the streets, smell history and see what it was really like to live then."

(Canadian Weekend Magazine, Toronto Star, Feb. 16, via Syd Osterman:)

And now, a few words in praise of Excellence

CBC radio is a marvel – to everyone but us

BY BOB BLACKBURN



It is quite possible – and quite possibly unfair – that nobody in the whole world, not even a mass murderer or a deposed dictator, gets less sympathy than a CBC executive.

Surely someone could spare a tear for the disconsolate souls who guide the destinies of the CBC's radio empire as they huddle in the muted elegance of their spacious offices and go bananas trying to figure out how they can, with straight faces, tell the people of Canada that "we're not really concerned with ratings – we just want more listeners."

This preposterous conundrum arises from a weakening but still entrenched CBC tradition that the vulgar pursuit of high audience ratings is appropriate to private broadcasting, but infra dig for the refined tastemakers of the public networks. What makes their problem poignant is that listeners in this country are largely ignoring a unique radio service that is admired and even envied by other broadcasters and listeners around the world.

The availability of this quality service is one of Canada's best-kept secrets. Survey figures show that each week more than 20 million Canadians spend at least some time listening to radio. Of these, 86% do not lend an ear for as much as a single minute to CBC Radio, and an even more incredible 97% go nowhere near CBC Stereo. (All statistics herein relate only to English-language domestic services, and do not include the Northern, International and French-language services. For the record, CBC French radio has 14 AM and six FM stations, which attract about as little interest as anglophone stations do.) Canadians spend about 400 million hours per week listening to radio; of that, CBC Radio gets only a 6% share.

This situation, certainly not new, surfaces occasionally in the consciousness of CBC brass, perhaps as a vague suspicion that something may be amiss.

The solution attempted in the last decade was to mitigate the service's not entirely deserved reputation for elitism and highbrow snobbery by programming for a slightly lower common denominator and age group. This included rock music, phone-in and "driving home" shows, opportunities to write in for fudge recipes, and the like. Such concessions, with their faint air of condescension, not only failed to turn the general ratings picture around significantly but also brought against the CBC a storm of criticism for dropping its standards to try to do things that private radio was already doing in a perfectly satisfactory manner.

So it came to pass, in the dying months of the '70s, that the management types put their heads together and decided on a new approach. Jussifiably confident of the quality of their product and their ability to keep improving it, they decided that the real problem is that people just don't know what the CBC is doing in radio, and that if they only tried it, they'd like it.

Thus we are about to be exposed, starting February 24, to CBC Radio Week, the culmination of an uncharacteristic CBC promotion campaign designed to tell people (in a discreet and dignified manner, of course) just what they're missing by not tuning in on a service they're paying millions of dollars for.

"We are not seeking mass audiences," insists Clive Mason, the corporation's BBC-trained managing director of radio. "We simply believe that there is a natural audience out there for everything we do, whether it's a couple of hundred thousand – which would fill quite a few concert halls – for a program of experimental music, or a couple of million for a lively public affairs show, and we're not reaching more than a fraction of that potential audience because they don't know about us. We aren't planning any special programming for Radio Week – we're just trying to persuade people to discover what we broadcast all the time, because we believe a lot of them will find out that we're offering something they want, and they'll start taking advantage of it."

And so they should. They're paying for it. CBC anglophone radio is currently spending $27 million for 11,446 hours a year of domestic network programming (about $2,360 an hour), plus $30 million for 61,700 hours of local programming (about $485 an hour). That's a lot of money, but when you consider that the average hour of English network TV costs you about $28,000, radio looks like a pretty good bargain – if you take advantage of it.

The decision to start peddling its wares was not one to be taken lightly by an organization already limping badly from the crippling combination of mounting costs, severe budget cuts and total loss of advertising revenue after it dropped all commercials in 1975. The Broadcasting Act commands the CBC to provide a certain type of service and to make it available to all Canadians, but it doesn't say anything at all about selling Canadians on the idea of listening. About the only publicity the radio service ever gets is when scapegoat-seeking politicians hammer it with charges of news bias and elitism. And its very existence is threatened by those who charge that nobody listens to it anyway.

Somebody listens to it – often outside the country. For 1979 alone (and at time of writing) CBC radio won two Gabriel Awards in Los Angeles (for *Mostly Beethoven* and *Echoes of Children*), the Prix Monaco (for *Stan Bergeron*, a science fiction musical) and two Major Armstrong Awards from Columbia University (for *Freud Revisited* and *McCarthyism and the Arts*). Every year it virtually owns ACTRA's radio awards. Networks on five continents rebroadcast its productions, and national radio services from many countries beseech Canada for advice. Files bulge with almost obscene love letters from American listeners just south of the border. But Canadians, apart from handfuls of devoted fans, pay little attention.

"In the past, when money has been short," says Mason, "we've tended to preserve programming at the expense of almost everything else, including promotion. Maybe we should have cut back on programs a little, and certainly we think now that we should spend a little to try to tell people we're doing something they might like. We do have this responsibility to be all things to all people, and I don't think there's a single soul in all of Canada who couldn't find *something* in the service that would please him or her."

Is CBC radio perfect? The people in it would be the first to tell you it isn't. But to any outsider who figures there must be more to the listening life than the endless and numbing prattle of commercial radio's hucksters and their tiny piles of pop records, the CBC provides an incredibly rich lode of rewarding alternatives unmatched anywhere in the world. It considers its prime function to be a source of information, and the depth and scope of its news and current affairs coverage beggar that of private radio, as does its copious, commercial-free presentation of good music, by no means all of which is classical.

Executives admit weaknesses in other areas, but those are areas virtually ignored by private radio. Margaret Lyons, program director of CBC Radio with a capital R (that refers to what would be called AM radio but for the fact that in many parts of Canada its outlets are FM stations; for the same reason, what should be called CBC-FM is now called CBC Stereo), feels her service needs more of a common touch in some areas. "A lot of our drama producers tend to be too artsy." She is trying to make her entertainment programming less vulnerable to charges of highbrowism (an accusation that surely could not be levelled at such moderately popular comedy entries as *The Royal Canadian Air Farce* or *Dr. Bundolo's Pandemonium Medicine Show*). Her CBC Stereo counterpart, Bob Wagstaff, is concentrating on improving his use of stereo technology in drama and variety, and both he and Lyons are striving to upgrade useful coverage of arts and sciences and nonpolitical news at home and abroad.

All that sounds jim-dandy, and it is intriguing that so many within the CBC are so dissatisfied with the corporation's performance in radio. "Especially since the budget cuts," says one producer, "we've been working in an atmosphere of a stifling mixture of fear and frustration, and the service is suffering." Says a former producer who quit his highly successful show over the issue of creative control: "The CBC is failing to make the best use of the immediacy, excitement and capacity for surprise that radio offers simply because too many professional survivors upstairs want to ensure their own peace and quiet, convenience and comfort."

Be that as it may, taxpaying Canadians really owe it to themselves to heed the clarion call of the CBC blowing its own horn (in glorious stereo) and *then* decide whether they want to nurture a national resource not quite like any other in the world. ■

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In praise of CBC Radio

Canadian Weekend Magazine

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gh: One excellence' starting Mon. Mar. 3 on CBC Radio for a 3-week (15 episode Mon-Fri) run on BOOKTIME at 10:20 p.m. local is: a reading of "Babbit" by Sinclair Lewis.

(Arthur S. Getzel, NY) Heard Steven Freygood's shortwave report for the first time in a long time Feb. 18 /on CBC NS 9625 & 11720 1505/1530 GMT -gh/. He heard a R. Moscow broadcast about how our Russian friends have invented robot ants to lay land lines. They have electronic brains that contain the 'collective conscious of the Soviet people' in order to make decisions. For example, if it encounters a barrier, the electronic brain will tell it to go right or left or jump over it. Just imagine, if we have a war, it could be "The Invasion of the Robot Ants"!!!

C H I N A (Tim Hendel, Miami FL) Another station that has really changed is Radio Peking. They even gave an address in Hong Kong where you can purchase cassette copies of their Chinese course.

C O L O M B I A (Rogildo Fontenelle Aragao, Cochabamba, Bolivia, SCDX Aug. 21) Radio Colosal de Neiva, 4945, transmite desde las 0430 a 0530 GMT un programa de interés a los DXistas, CONTACTO CON EL MUNDO, apresentado por Gabriel Veloz Ortiz; lee relatorios y cartas recebidas y con música y datos de Colombia; su dirección: Radio Colosal, Contacto con el Mundo, Apt. Aéreo 444, Neiva 1.

C O O K I S L A N D S (Pacific Report, Pacific Islands Monthly, Jan. 1980, via Bob Bodell, OR) Radio Cook Islands Is Tops. Radio Cook Islands was voted 1979's Station of the Year by the North American Shortwave Club, California. Club president Robert Leingang has sought information about the radio for purposes of publicity in the United States.

gh: Who the hell is Leingang and what the hell is the NASWC?! Perhaps a one-man 'club', hi. No doubt this made waves in Rarotonga; or could they have gotten it mixed up with some other 'RCI' ?

C U B A (Wayne Pierce, Oroville CA) I found RHC to be invaluable when I was in Nebraska for the summer, to follow Sandinista events in Nicaragua. I did compare with VOA and found RHC much more informed and inclined to have tips on what was happening where VOA had releases from Washington.

(Gordon Byrd, Tampa FL) I'll try to monitor the complete night's programming for a week on 600 kHz (torture; masochism?) and get a complete sked down. Condition: if my set works properly. Programming seems to repeat periodically through the night. Perhaps the RHC staffers realize, nobody is stupid enough to sit through six hours of talk and propaganda, especially on MW BCB.

Their all-night show has gotten some comment from local talkradio listeners who are deprived of same on Monday mornings when LARRY KING SHOW is off and WPLP shuts down. A lot of them hear WFAA at this time (surprise!) /on 570/ but some go wandering about the band and pick up the Voice of Cuba. Cure for insomnia, no rest for radio pilgrims.

(Tim Hendel, Miami) Audio on the all-night program does not sound as if it has been fed over a long landline, as do many Cuban internal networks when heard via a non-Havana transmitter.

C Y P R U S (Arthur Getzel, Flushing NY) According to BBC WORLD RADIO CLUB, on Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 13 and 14, their East Mediterranean Relay station in Cyprus was off the air because it was struck by lightning. Transmissions to the Middle East were affected by this event.

C Z E C H O S L O V A K I A (Robert L. Hoffmann II, New Hyde Park NY) R. Prague sent a QSL and said they would answer my reception report on Feb. 7 DX CHAT. The good part is that one of the questions I wrote was: Why are you so anti-American?

gh: So, what did they say? I'll bet I can guess.

E C U A D O R (gh) DX PARTY LINE is at it again, running the interval signal feature thru again. We're invited to 'guess' what each one is, hearing it before being told. It would be much more fun, and not as hard as you might think to identify them from hearing only the first note. From their pitch, instrumentation, and familiarity most could be recognized by anyone but an utter neophyte.

Short Waves

Feb. 17

By GLENN HAUSER,
Denver Post Special Writer

CUBA has begun English broadcasts to the United States on a powerful medium-wave transmitter. During a Dec. 27 visit to Radio Habana, we wondered why they were using short wave only, because Cuba is close enough for AM to be an effective band for international broadcasting. A month later, the new service was under way.

For a long time Cuba has had a quasi-external service overnight, "La Voz de Cuba," in Spanish on many AM-band channels. This continues except on 600 kHz, which from midnight to 6 a.m. Cuban time (10 p.m.-4 a.m. MST) carries "The Voice of Cuba" in English. A very pleasant chime tuning signal based on a revolutionary march starts as early as 9:50.

'This isn't a clear channel, but a "regional" on which the power is supposed to be limited to 5 kilowatts. However, it is likely that Cuba is using at least 150 kW, as it has on several other channels in defiance of regional broadcasting agreements with the United States, which still observes the 5-kW limit.

BECAUSE OF directional antenna patterns, the Habana broadcast is best heard in Florida and in the east-central United States. Colorado is in quite a different position, with many domestic stations in Montana, North Dakota, Iowa, Tennessee, Texas, Arizona and California, all favoring this direction with directional antennas. However, you may be able to hear Cuba when conditions are favorable and by "nulling" the U.S. stations.

Programming is the same as on Radio Habana Cuba (short wave) where the programs are produced. However, The Voice of Cuba announces a different postal address. Cuba has broadcast in English before on medium wave, but not on this scale. Lower-powered transmitters were once known as "The Friendly Voice of Cuba" and "Radio Free Dixie."

This development brings home the point that there is nothing to prevent Radio Moscow from reaching a U.S. AM-band audience. Cuba already relays Moscow on shortwave and could easily start doing so on medium wave. **

Whatever we may think of their ideology or tactics, we can't blame the Cubans for taking this step. The Voice of America, following the missile crisis in 1962, set up a station in the Florida Keys on 1180 kHz specifically for broadcasts to Cuba in Spanish, and it is still on the air. The VOA also broadcasts into the U.S.S.R. via superpower medium-wave transmitters in Europe. But one thing isn't fair: Cuba jams the VOA.

For a sample copy of the listeners' magazine, Review of International Broadcasting, send $1 to Glenn Hauser, University Radio WUOT, Knoxville, Tenn. 37916. A 12-issue subscription is $12.

**late news from Ron Schatz: As of Feb.24 600 kHz is carrying R. Moscow in English at least at 1100-1400 & 2300-0500 GMT !!

(Kenneth Clark, TN, GO-DX) Lately the DXing public has heard several criticisms about DX PARTY LINE. How we forget too soon! Clayton Howard may be a little slow-paced, but I think it's high time that we, the DXing public, become aware of his cooperation and efforts to help the DXer and SWL. Most DXers started knowing very little about DXing. Who was there to turn to? Good Ole Clayton Howard and DXPL. Without DXPL how would the beginner get started? The upcoming generations of DXers should be entitled to a DX program. DXPL not only has beginner's material, but also helpful information for 'ace' DXers. I think we, the DXing public, should praise Mr. Howard and DXPL more often and criticize less! Thanks Mr. Howard!

(Robert L. Hoffmann II, NY) Aaaaaargh! Music on DX PARTY LINE?! Have you listened lately to HCJB? That's right. The DX PARTY LINE is now using about 45 sec. of music between segments. With 3 or 4 segments (and the Thought and Tips for Boring...er...Real Living), a total of about 7 or 8 minutes are lost. Why not a 20-minute program with non-evangelical hosts, no fill music, and more DX news and a full-speed announcer...I could go on forever.

gh: Watch it, Robert, what you propose sounds suspiciously like HCJB's French DX program, À L'ÉCOUTE DU MONDE. English speaking listeners must be regaled with evangelical propaganda. Well, I think Clayton has brightened his pace a bit in recent months, and I like the musical breaks. Out of 90 minutes a week I feel we can stand that; I only wish they were entire rather than bits. I approve only because this is Ecuadorian music; if he started playing US pop I would strongly object. As for Kenneth's comments, I would suggest that DXPL is not the only source of info helpful to beginners--what about DX JUKEBOX? As for DXPL having material for 'ace' DXers, I beg to differ. I have rarely heard any DX item on DXPL which would fall into that category. The 'ace' DXer wants his information fast. Almost everything on DXPL is read from already-published or broadcast DX bulletins--SPEEDX-GRAM, Arthur Cushen, etc., etc. Some of the info was as much as 6 weeks old when published, and is more like a minimum of 2 months old when aired on DXPL. And radio is an instantaneous medium?

E G Y P T (Edwin Southwell, WDXC Contact) Here is Radio Cairo's new program schedule for Jan-June 1980 to Europe at 2215-2345 on 9805; it shows a few changes from the last one. Daily fixed items are 2217 NEWS HEADLINES, 2230 NEWS & COMMENTARY, 2340 WEATHER REPORT, 2345 NEWS HEADLINES.

Monday
2218 ORIENTAL MUSIC
2220 SPORTS IN EGYPT
2245 LISTENERS CLUB
2315 EGYPT TODAY/ARABIC POETRY
2330 ARAB MUSIC GROUP

Tuesday
2218 ORIENTAL MUSIC
2220 WOMANS CORNER
2240 SPOTLITE ON MIDEAST
2250 CAIRO MAGAZINE
2320 EGYPTIAN MELODIES

Wednesday
2218 ARABIC SONGS & MUSIC
2225 QUIZ TIME part 1
2240 PALESTINE THIS WEEK
2245 QUIZ TIME part 2
2250 WITH THE LISTENERS
2320 MEDICAL & SCIENCE WORLD

Thursday
2218 ORIENTAL MUSIC
2220 WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT
2245 ARABIC SONG
2250 DIALOGUE FOR PEACE
2310 HERE AND THERE
2320 SCIENCE IN EGYPT
2325 15 MINUTES WITH...

Friday
2218 ORIENTAL MUSIC
2220 ANCIENT EGYPT. CIVILIZATION
2245 LISTENERS CLUB
2315 WORLD OF MINARETS
2325 DOWN MEMORY LANE

Saturday
2218 ORIENTAL MUSIC
2220 STAMP COLLECTORS CLUB
2240 PRESS REVIEW
2250 MUSIC AROUND THE WORLD
2305 A SCENE FROM EGYPT
2315 MEETING IN CAIRO
2330 CULTURAL TALK
2335 ORIENTAL MUSIC

Sunday
2218 ORIENTAL MUSIC
2220 THIS WEEK IN HISTORY
2245 WITH THE LISTENERS
2315 EGYPT FROM A TO Z
2325 ALBUM REVIEW

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F R A N C E (Arthur S. Getzel, NY) Heard on PARIS CALLING AFRICA, Sun. Feb. 17, that our old friend, His Excellency, President for Life, Doctor Idi Amin Dada, has been thrown out of Libya. It seems that he has irked the Libyan authorities. It seems that two of his bodyguards killed several Libyan guards for sport. Thus, he has flown the coup to Sa'udi Arabia. Stay tuned to this station for future episodes.

G A B O N (Tim Hendel, Miami FL) I wonder what happened to Africa Number One. Haven't they started any programs? I, for one, was anxious to see what they planned to broadcast.

gh: Richard Ginbey reported on Feb. DX JUKE BOX that ANO had been off the air since Dec. 22. But with this station, you never know what to expect next; perhaps they're broke after giving away the Peugeot! There were press reports that the station would sell time to evangelists such as Radio Voice of the Gospel, and serve as a relay station for Radio France Internationale, both fates slightly better than death. Sob! I wanna know all about Gabon and what's going on there!

G E R M A N Y W E S T (Ralf Munster, Decatur GA, from a letter to DW) I cannot help but infer that the Hochfrequenz department is not particularly interested in listening reports, presumably because the DW has regular monitors on which to rely and/or by virtue of the numerous frequencies employed, feels sufficiently assured about reception not to need any reports, regardless of whether these pertain to transmissions to North America or to Africa. While it must be nice to enjoy such feeling of assuredness, I cannot help but wonder whether it isn't bought at an excessive price in public relations as the comments by Joel Rubin in December RIB illustrate. I for one would be curious to hear what the DW has to say in this connection /using 8 frequencies for one 20-minute broadcast to North America/. This is all the more the case by virtue of the extreme shortness of the English language broadcasts by the DW to North America. Surely any explanation that North America is well supplied with news broadcasts and so does not need a more extended English language service from DW, will not stand up because people do not listen to foreign broadcasts for the news per se, but for the foreign country's perspective on the news. Lest you misunderstand, let me add that since I understand German, I can easily listen to the DW's NACHRICHTEN, KOMMENTAR, PRESSESCHAU,etc., but even there one has to listen at a number of different time periods. The first thirty minute block during the "3. Sendestunde" is probably best.

(Peter Batten, Bristol, England, Feb. WDXC Contact) The English service of Deutschlandfunk broadcasts at 1840-1930 GMT on 1269 kHz weekdays; Sundays 1800-1830 on 1539 and 1269. As part of the DLF European services, headed by Jurgen Reiss, the English service presents through its daily programmes an all round picture of events and developments in Germany and of Germany's position in European and international affairs. The first part each day is topical and starts with a NEWS bulletin, plus editorial comment, political commentary, report from Bonn correspondent, and a weekly review of events as seen from Bonn. The rest of the programme, thru talks, reports and interviews, covers economic, industrial and social questions, science and technology, cultural life, East Germany's affairs. Interviews on topical themes with English speaking visitors to Germany have also proved a popular item. DLF's regular features include the documentary THIS WAS GERMANY 30 YEARS AGO, a woman's magazine, GERMANY ON THE YOUNGER SIDE, the pop scene in Germany, musical requests, letters from Berlin, Hamburg and Munich. DX CIRCLE, Motorists magazine, etc. The German language course DEUTSCH IM DLF for English speaking listeners is broadcast during the winter months each Wed. 1745-1800 GMT on 1269, with repeats Saturdays at the same time and frequency. The English service tells British and Irish listeners about Germany but does not deal with internal events in Britain or Ireland. It employs 15 members of the permanent staff headed by H.P.W. Weymar. Typical programs from DLF:

Mon TODAY IN BONN; UNUSUAL PROFESSIONS; REPORT BY OUR ART CORRESPONDENT; THIS WAS GERMANY 30 YEARS AGO. Tue TODAY IN BONN, DX PROGRAMME, EAST GERMAN REPORT, DATELINE GERMANY. Wed TODAY IN BONN, COME TO GERMANY, GERMAN MUSEUMS, LETTER FROM BERLIN. Thu TODAY IN BONN, FEATURE ON THE OBERAMMERGAU REGION. Fri TODAY IN BONN, MARGINAL NOTES FROM WEST GERMANY. WEST GERMAN THEATRE (monthly). OUR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS CORRESPONDENT. Sat THE GERMAN POP SCENE, COLOGNE FOCUS, SATURDAY NIGHT SPORTS ROUND-UP. Sun COME TO GERMANY.

G R E N A D A (Kenneth Clark, Knoxville TN) The recent program schedule of Radio Free Grenada at 2130-2400 on 15045 kHz shows some changes from last sked, particularly on Sunday.

Mon-Sat: 2130 THE PLEASURE IS YOURS, 2200 STORY TIME, 2215 MUSIC & ANNOUNCEMENTS, 2230 OBITUARIES, 2235 MUSIC & ANNOUNCEMENTS, 2245 BBC SPORTS ROUNDUP, 2300 BBC NEWS, 2309 NIGHTLIFE, 2325 BINGO, 2330 TONIGHT.

Sundays: 2130 SOUL SEARCHERS, 2200 WORLD OF JAZZ, 2245 BBC SPORTS ROUNDUP, 2300 BBC NEWS, 2309 MUSIC, 2315 CARIBBEAN REFLECTIONS(?) or MUSIC, 2330 OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE.

STORY TIME is produced and announced by the Director of Education in Grenada. CARIBBEAN REFLECTIONS (?) when it's on, is a talk/discussion show on the top events in the Caribbean. And programs on the weekends may be interrupted for special events--i.e. cricket matches!

I N D I A (David K. Maxfield, Ann Arbor MI) Some Hindus are living in a dream world! On the recent occasion of the 30th anniversary of their republic, I heard a speaker (2215 on 11620) give an impassioned rhapsody in which the words "tranquility," "non-aggression," and "peaceful co-existence" constantly re-occurred. He certainly had not taken note of what was--even then--taking place in Afghanistan!

I R A N (Joel Rubin, CA) As of a few weeks ago, Teheran time was GMT + 3½ (i.e. a live phone call between KGO and a correspondent then there took place at 1820 GMT, and local time was given as 2150) (Of course with Soviet troops to the north and east, and Khomeini sick, Tegranskaya Vremya may soon be GMT +3) /actually, they're moving to GMT + 4½ as of Mar. 21 -gh/. I had the, er, um, opportunity while back east to hear VOIRI, including Khomeini's Christmas message. I won't claim that the CIA has not been responsible for any events in Iran over the past 30 years. We all know that the Shah was returned to the throne and then propped up by the CIA. But, really! Do they believe this, or is the last refuge of Iranian scoundrels to blame it all on the U.S.? Plot, plot, fizz, fizz, on what a relief it is!

I S R A E L (Arthur S. Getzel, NY) It's so good to hear Rosalind Gelsa back on CALLING ALL LISTENERS. The program is returning to its original standard. But I find it strange that Kol Yisrael only wants their programs geared to the Jewish diaspora. The impression I have always gotten was that of a station trying to convince the worth of the justice of Israel's existence. Anyway, their programs do have a mass appeal for the most part. Also, let me add that I am glad the WZO will not have a hand in programming. My fear was Kol Yisrael becoming their propaganda arm. Another thing: Israel should be more careful about its news presentations. One day, I felt they devoted too much attention and time to the new West Bank settlement in Hebron. I felt they were trying to legitimize the government's actions. All these broadcasts do is to stir animosity and resentment. In terms of language, I think they are wasting their time broadcasting in Yiddish to North America. Gee, after my parents' generation is gone, I do not think anyone except some of our more romantic intellectuals will be speaking Yiddish. And there are not too many Jews in America today who understand it. Believe me, more diaspora Jews today speak Hebrew than Yiddish.

Agreement paves way for Kol Yisrael U.S. casts

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

An agreement signed last week with Kol Yisrael technicians finally removed the Broadcasting Authority's last hurdle in its plans to broadcast — for the first time in six years — shortwave radio programmes to the Americas during their prime-time evening hours.

But the Jewish Agency refuses to fund the broadcasts because its demands for participation in the timing and content of programmes have not been met. As a result, news and features will not be broadcast live, but only on tape prepared earlier in the evening.

After earlier assertions that they would no longer negotiate with management over pay and conditions, the technicians finally agreed to cooperate.

Following the agreement, the first programmes will start at midnight, January 31.

Shortwave broadcasts will be heard in North and South America in English, Hebrew, Spanish, Portuguese, Yiddish and Russian.

Radio officials conducted intensive research, with the help of computers, to determine the best hours for broadcasting to the U.S., according to overseas programming chief Victor Grayevsky, so that the Israeli shows do not clash with popular TV and radio shows in important listening areas. English programmes will be heard on the east coast of the U.S. at 8, 9 and 10 p.m. local time.

gh: You mean you had the chance to gain the rich cultural heritage of the Yiddish language from your parents and did not take advantage of it?! The Yiddish at 2300 is, however mainly for Latin Am.

(Lawrence E. Magne, Rockledge PA) My feeling concerning your comment in Feb RIB on KI being 'very much secondarily' for non-Jews; I think you are taking the comments of several high-level officials too literally. That there exists here a large potential base of support for Israel among non-Jews is well understood at the working level, and within radio management as well. But this is a new concept in Israeli information services; heretofore, nearly all efforts were to the Diaspora, plus to some extent to the "Christian community", i.e. churches and other Christian religious organizations. One of the real benefits of radio is that it reaches anybody who wants to hear it--unless it is interfered with en route, such as by jammers. While admittedly the KI services to Russia are intended for Jews, the Western Services have for some time now established a factual record in terms of program content, and this is not going to change because North America has been added as a target. Given the vital relationship between the U.S. and Israel, it would be more than slightly foolish for Israeli radio to concentrate on 2% of the population to the exclusion of the other 98%!

At the top of the list of those who have been responsible for the effort to have Kol Israel broadcast to the Americas in prime time are certainly Mr. Victor Grajewski, Director of the External Services; Mr. Ze'ev Stockheim, Director of Liaison Coordination for several years; and his successor, Mr. Tuvia Keenan, who currently holds that post. Without their tireless efforts, the issue would never have had a chance of succeeding. Additionally, the External Service and News Department program staffs have cooperated, notwithstanding that prime time to the Americas is most inconvenient for their personal schedules. The Ministry of Communications ("PTT") has also been helpful throughout. In North America, the earliest efforts were made by Alan Hausner, who to this day keeps the

IBA's U.S. postbox operations functioning smoothly and who interacts with hundreds of callers and writers to Box 204. I shudder to think where the IBA would be in North America without Alan. Arnold Hartley of Key Broadcast Management has provided years of support and publicity that have indirectly helped make an American service possible. RIB reader Amnon Nadav, formerly with the Foreign Ministry, to this day continues to keep the fires burning. Various dedicated past and present officials at Israel's U.S. consulates have also been very helpful. And where would the IBA be without the regular monitors whose feedback and ideas have paved the way for an American Service to be technically successful? In addition to yourself, the list includes Al Drehman, Bob Zilmer, Dave Walcutt, Maurice Hoffman, Ralf Munster, Dave Williams, George Poppin, Jim Young, and Jim Thornton--many of whom have been contributing regularly for most of this decade. Finally, of course, there are many who have taken the moment to write the IBA expressing concern over the absence of a prime-time operation to the Americas.

(Rufus Jordan, Pittsburgh PA) In noting gh's comment in Feb RIB p. 37 concerning the fact that 'some transmissions are truncated for antenna switching' and the hope that the DX CORNER would not be cut off, a check of the 0000-0030, 0100-0130 & 0200-0230 GMT Monday Feb. 11 broadcasts found the airings of a fully-intact DX CORNER at 0025-0030, 0120-0125, 0220-0225 on 7412 9815 and 11637 kHz. During the first time period, there was a music segment just before DX CORNER; however, DX CORNER was on five minutes earlier during the last two time slots minus the preceding music spot. Apparently, the antenna switching is accomplished by truncating programming five minutes early during the last two xmsns without any reduction of air time allocated for the DX CORNER feature.

(Harry L. Lillie, Cañon City CO) I'm not interested in the QSL angle, but want to return to locating stations with good news coverage, and very much desire to see if any of the stations have interesting local human interest items. Twenty-five years ago Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland and many others had far more programs along those lines than I've been able to find recently. Israel had much concerning kibbutz life, and a good supply of historical and archeological information five or six years ago, but this has, understandably decreased to provide more coverage to political and economic problems.

J A P A N (John McKellar, Feb CANDX "Feedback") Some years ago, NHK asked me to be a 'technical monitor' for them. The job consisted of sending a postage-paid reception report to them every month. In turn, they would send me a surprise gift several months during the course of the year. As it turned out, these 'surprise gifts' were a collection of Japanese photography books, valued at $50 apiece. They contained nature photos from Japan, some suitable for framing. Those of you who have been asked to do this for NHK and refused don't know what you're missing. The amount of work done as a technical monitor is minimal compared to the rewards given in return. The only catch is that each technical monitor must be a reliable reception reporter.

K A M P U C H E A (W. Maxfield Greenwood, PA) I finally got an audible signal from the 'Voice of the Kampuchean People' and found out what I wasn't missing. I mean this station is about as exciting as listening to a faucet drip, and nearly as soothing. In a 15-minute English broadcast, I was treated to about 7 minutes of the history of the communist party in Czechoslovakia; and this was interspersed amongst about 7 minutes of the most non-descript music you have ever heard--it makes noises, but doesn't sound like anything, like maybe they forgot to put in the notes. They sign off with an abrupt good-bye, I with a declaration of never again. P.S. Would give the time and frequency of this broadcast, but I want to protect the innocent.

K O R E A N O R T H (Dave Mosier, San Jose CA) If I never heard for myself the propaganda that's broadcast on Radio Pyongyang, I would never believe it. Without a doubt, Radio Pyongyang is the most absurd and ridiculous international broadcaster ever to have appeared on the face of the earth. If you ever happen to tune in to this station, you will hear one of two things: (A) A seemingly endless dissertation about the life and times of the "Great Leader", or (B) Malcontented driveling on an unimportant topic such as "Japanese Reactionaries" or "Revolutionary Construction". The way to tell the difference between the two is to listen for a phrase that is constantly repeated over and over again by the announcers, for once the announcers get stuck on the phrase they can't help saying it in every other sentence. If the phrase is "Great Leader", then you'll know that you're tuned to the daily installment about Kim Il-Sung (which is probably their longest-running program.) If it's something else, then it's their program of hatefulness. It's sometimes hard to tell what they're saying about what they hate due to their ratchety English; all you find out is what they dislike. If you can force yourself to listen long enough, you may hear some music, which unfortunately, is not much of an improvement over their lengthy tirades. I should point out that this station does serve a useful purpose--it's an excellent example of what a shortwave station shouldn't be!

K O R E A S O U T H (Arthur Getzel, NY) Listening to R. Korea, I heard a news announcer that sounded so American I could almost swear he is a native--or he must have lived here for some time.

M E X I C O (Doug Everitt, Enid OK) Regarding the comments of Bob Underdown, Kenneth Clark, et al, on religious broadcasters, including the ever-present Mexicans: They're inflammatory to begin with, but you should try doing any kind of serious MW DXing through them. If the station isn't bad enough on its nominal frequency, try XEG's recurring spurs on 1034.5 and 1065.5 kHz to get a better idea of just how wonderfully these stations are run.

N E T H E R L A N D S (Roberto Levinstein, Madrid, Spain) Regarding my help to tally ISWC's poll, please don't get it wrong! The votes I get here to translate have already been counted in London. All I translate are the 'reasons' given by voters for choosing such stations as their number 1 choice. I don't translate the votes as such; after all, ISWC would know that "BBC de Londres" is BBC-London. So, no chance to change results--and RN didn't offer me US$1000 to do it, hi.

(Scott McClellan, Battle Creek MI) While RN is one of the better stations around, I do not agree with Mr. Steinkamp's remarks on DX JUKE BOX Jan. 17. While I could fill a page or two criticizing what he said, I'm sure many others will do this, so I will just comment on one thing. I feel he should have written his views to RIB, instead of dragging all DXJB listeners into it. By saying that your comments were 'unfair', etc., he may have given a bad impression of RIB. Growl, Grrrr, etc.

N E W H E B R I D E S (Mike McGovern, Feb WDXC Contact) Following programme format noted on two occasions from Vila, 3945: 0745-0830 Pidgin Programmes including commentary, pop songs, news, music, weather and prayer. News in English at 0830, news in French 0845. gh: Try 7260 now.

P A P U A N E W G U I N E A (Dave Maxfield, Ann Arbor MI) I take back what I said last time; for on Feb. 5, I heard a magnificent program of uninterrupted New Orleans and Dixieland jazz on 4890 at 1230, though it may have begun earlier. It was part of a weekly segment called "Time Out"--perhaps because there were no commercials! gh: Feb. 5 was a Tuesday

S P A I N (John McKellar, Feb. CANDX "Feedback") Radio Peking may have won the title of "most improved station" at the last ANARCON, but I personally think the second runner-up should be Spanish Foreign Radio. /it was first runner-up, tied with Grenada; see June RIB p. 6 -gh/ For those of you who have not heard some of their more recent programming, they now have added a new format to their North American English service, including synthesized music intervals, as well as the usual feature programs on Spanish life and culture. Their Spanish music programs are excellent, along with their TOURIST GUIDE program, which takes listeners through some of the popular vacation spots in their country.

S W E D E N (Alex Calabrese, Buena NJ) On Feb. 2 I had the pleasure of tuning in Radio Sweden's SATURDAY SHOW. Various selections of Swedish New Wave and, rock and roll were played. Musically, nothing is more boring than an international broadcaster playing U.S. Top 40. One of the SATURDAY SHOW selections was "All My Life" by the Bitch Boys (and as the announcer said, "No, not the Beach Boys"). I'm inspired and look forward to hearing the Radio Tirana PUNK ROCK HOUR with your host Enver Hoxha (naw, it'll never happen).

(Robert L. Hoffmann II, New Hyde Park NY) Henry Hatch is condescending, eh? "However, R. Sweden have a consistently good signal all year long at 1400 on 21615; you should listen then!" Ain't that just a little condescending? Some of us go to school (me) or work (I'm sure Mr. Funnye works) and aren't home at 1400 GMT (0900 EST) to hear R. Sweden "You should listen then," indeed!!!

(Joel Rubin, Berkeley CA) 15275 at 2300 doesn't appear to be a good choice here (of course, I realise its primary target area is not an area where local time is 1500). KGEI is groundwave on 15280 and if one tries to tune to the other side, one runs very quickly into a strong VOFC on 15270. Between these two, 15275 is virtually inaudible.

gh: Robert, I can't help it if you don't put first things first, like shortwave listening--or record with the aid of a timer. And you're free on Sats & Suns, aren't you? I have urged R. Sweden, however to resume a North American frequency at 1230 GMT, at least in the DST months when this isn't too early to put a good higher-band signal into eastern North America. Right, Joel, your problem is a local one. The 0230 broadcast for 'western' North America comes in surprisingly well here and I wonder whether it does out there.

T R A N S K E I (Gordon Nattrass, Feb WDXC Contact) Reception in Britain of Capital Radio is quite good on a communications receiver but faraway ordinary listeners are having difficulty in picking up the programme. Cape Times Jan. 19 reports as follows: Capital Radio's chairman Dr Richard Bruce is visiting the United States head office of the station's technical advisers to discuss the continuing poor performance of his fledgling radio station. A spokesman for the Transkei based station confirmed earlier this week that there were still technical problems which were interfering with the

station's reach to Johannesburg and Cape Town. Speaking from Port St. Johns, Mr Martin Rattle, the station's musical director said antenna problems were the cause of poor reception. The powerful transmitters were operating satisfactorily but correct alignment of the antennas had not yet been achieved, he said. Mr Rattle said Dr Bruce had gone to Washington to discuss the situation with the station's technical consultants who were responsible for the antennas functioning. The managing director of Capital Radio, Mr John Moody, said the reports from Washington had not yet been received. "The technicians from America did tests on the antenna using a helicopter and special equipment and they have taken their results back to America to feed into a computer. As soon as they find out what part of the antenna is faulty they can come back and repair it." The antenna was made to special specifications and imported from America. Mr Moody said he would 'not be happy' until the station operated at its full power. "We've promised perfection and we won't rest until we get it," he said. "At this stage it's only guesswork when the antenna will be back in full operation, but I promise it will be as soon as possible." On the first day the antenna was struck by lightning whilst the shortwave transmitter suffered from overmodulation. Capital Radio is reported to have 1.25 million Rand worth of advertising. Mediumwave frequency is probably 603 to be in line with the international plan but they announce 604 as it rhymes with their "All the Hits and More" jingle!

T U R K E Y (Rufus Jordan, Pittsburgh PA) The Voice of Turkey's 2130-2300 English transmission to western Europe has been replaced by two one-hour programs at 2030 and 2200. I tuned to the 2030 broadcast on 11955 kHz. At this location, parallel 9550 was not audible. Programming consisted of a comprehensive world news segment followed by a review of the Turkish press which featured editorial points of view concerning a number of national and international topics. Both of these segments were well-produced, very interesting and professionally done. The DX news filled the 2050-2105 GMT time slot. Taking a page from Radio RSA and Radio Nederland /you mean Voice of Israel --gh/ the VOT's DX program is called DX CORNER, and is composed of more or less timely DX tips, listeners' reception reports and comments plus U.S. pop music filler. It was interesting to note that all of the letters which were selected contained generous praise for the VOT's DX program. Is it possible that this was just a random sample? The remainder of the broadcast consisted of a special feature which gave the listener a very interesting overview of the books currently popular in Turkey plus readings from a short story. A man and woman team of announcers handled the program details very skillfully and in very clear English. All in all, the format of news, commentary, music and special features provided a generally enjoyable listening experience. Reception was good with slight QRM during the final fifteen minutes of the broadcast.

gh: Don't be thrown if you hear them ID informally as "Sunshine Radio". One European DXer took this as "Palestine Radio" !

U G A N D A (Richard A. D'Angelo, Wyomissing PA 19610) Attached is a copy of a letter I received from a gentleman from Uganda about a month after sending a reception report to Radio Uganda. Essentially it is an effort to obtain financial or material aid. Since R. Uganda is a government run station then once can assume this request has some government support (or my reception report never reached the proper people). I can remember something similar from Ghana in the late 1960s. Has anybody else had this experience lately?

gh: This gentleman may very well be guilty of what in the US would be a serious federal crime, mail theft. But in the context of Uganda, can we blame him? Here is the letter; judge for yourself:

(John Wick Yiga, Box 785, Kampala) I am sure you will be quite surprised to get this letter when you utterly know nothing about me. In fact I am a Ugandan aged 29 and one of the members of a family of sixteen, that is, those who survived the war in ousting dictator Amin. Although the war claimed three of my family members, the good God made the rest of us pull out alive. Unfortunately the war left our family and home completely shattered, just like many others. Whatever little property that was not destroyed in the actual fighting, in the end fell in the hands of looters who completed the wreckage. Thus, we have found ourselves alive, but helpless, and I, being the sole employed family member, it is too hard to reconstruct the family alone. Hence I humbly present to you our request of any aid you can forward to us. This aid could be financial or in material form especially in kind of clothes. Any little help you offer will be received with open hands and appreciated by all of us here. Once sent by post, all parcels and registered letters can safely reach us. No risks. I humbly remain, Yours Sincerely,

U K O G B A N I (gh) I've meant to mention this month after month for several months, but kept forgetting: the audio on BBCWS relays via Sackville, which I justifiably used to criticise, has greatly improved. I suspect they are now using the "MOTT" (modulation on two telephone lines) system pioneered by R. Nederland to Bonaire, which allows a 'full' 5 kHz bandwidth by converting the 'top half' down to 0-2500 Hz on a second, paired line for transmission, and then back up.

BBC for MARCH (Roger N. Peterson, CT.) Has the budget started to make a dent in the BBC programs ? March, like February, seems a little sparse - at least compared to the last quarter of 1979. Anyway, here is what seems to be the best:

Land and People - a history of Britain, starting from Shakespeare's England and continuing up to today. Sats 2045 rep Mons 1000, Weds 1615. The Road to the White House - a look at our election process. 15th, 22nd, 1130 rep 16th, 23rd 1830, 21st, 28th, 0230. At first glance, I would not have been interested in this since our U.S. media seems to be over-killing the situation. However, it might be interesting to hear an outsiders viewpoint. Three famous churchmen are the subjects of broadcasts this month. The Rt. Rev. Robert Runcie - the new Archbishop of Canterbury - is interviewed on the 25th,26th, 27th at 0445 rep 0809, 2240. Bishop Michael Ramsey, former Archbishop of Canterbury, presents five talks over Lent. Sats 0815 rep Mons 0315, Tues 1615. The Pope and the World examines the situation today at the Vatican and can be heard on the 29th 1130 rep 30th 1830, April 4th 0230.

What appears to be the best this month is The Spy that stayed out in the Cold. This is all about the new technology of spying and ranges from orbiting satellites to microphone bugs, battlefield sensors and other 007 devices. 11th at 0030 rep 2030, 12th 1330, 16th 1130. Come Here continues to survey Britain for overseas visitors. Archaeological digs are on the 1st, golfing at Fleneagles hotel in Scotland on the 8th, a bargain in rail transportation on the 15th and a final round-up on holiday hints on the 22nd. Sats 0430 rep 1315. Mons 0815, Tues 2315.

A Generation of Giants examines three famous playwrights - Ibsen 18th, Chekhov 25th, Shaw Apr 1st. From 18th Tues 0030 rep 2030, Weds 1330, Suns 1130. Putting Bugs to Work is all about this exciting new technological development to produce hormones, drugs and vaccines. 8th 1130 rep 9th 1830, 14th 0230. D.H.Lawrence, the famous novelist, is the subject of a program on the 4th at 0030, rep 2030, 5th 1330, 9th 1130.

Drama : Radio Theater on Suns. 1915 rep Thurs 0030, Fris 1330. Play of the Week on Sats 1830 rep Suns 0030,1130. Haunted - three plays of the supernatural on Tues, the 4th, 11th, 18th at 1715 rep 2330 rep Wednesday at 1215.

Sport : As most of you BBC listeners know, Saturday morning is always given over to sports - most only of interest to British expatriates - that is Rugby, British Football, Cricket,etc, This month, however is the famous Grand National, which for horse lovers everywhere is an annual event. On the 28th at 2145 rep 29th 0530, 1015. Actual race is heard on the 29th at 1405.

The BBC is asking all subscribers to London Calling to check off the programs they listened to during the last week in February. This research bit will,hopefully, keep the good programs and get rid of the bad. I will not be able to participate since I will be in London during that week but will try to find time for a visit with Henry Hatch at his taping of the World Radio Club.

(Joel Rubin, CA) 15360 (Ascension) is giving good reception of the BBC World Service for Africa. One of the more interesting weekly programs is POSTMARK AFRICA, Sundays 0335, 0515, 0735, 2115. Unlike LETTERBOX, which deals only with questions about the BBC, POSTMARK AFRICA deals with questions about the anomalies of the English language, European civilisation, almanac-type questions, et al. Often, the questions are more interesting for what they reveal about the writers, than the answers.

Those times given for HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY, (Feb RIB p. 28) are valid, but Mondays are listed first. Why, then is the first program on Feb. 28? gh: changed their mind. Other WS features: THE MARCH OF WOMEN (suffragettes), from Mar. 29, Sats 0430,1315, Mons 0815, Tues 2315. D. H. LAWRENCE, Mar 4th 0030, 2030; 5th 1330. Drama: EXPEDIENCY by T.D. Webster, Mar. 2 1915, 6th 0030, 7th 1330. I mention this one because Hugh Burden, one of the actors, created the role of Da's son on Broadway. THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST, Mar. 22 1830, 23rd 0030 & 1130.

gh: Also, the BRAIN OF BRITAIN returns for its 1980 quiz series, running 29 weeks. Though very entertaining you can also learn something! Tues 1130, Weds 0830, Thurs 1830, Fris 2330.

(Ralf F. Munster, Decatur GA) By just about 'universal' consent the BBCWS is the finest SWBC service so far as programming is concerned but the conduct of its business affairs would appear to leave a few things to be desired. On Sept. 5 I sent Bush House a $10 check for a subscription to London Calling, which was acknowledged by a letter posted Oct. 25 that I received Nov. 3. That check was not handled for collection by Barclays Bank until Oct. 29 but cleared my bank account just three days later on Nov. 1. While the acknowledgement expressed the hope that "the November issue should be reaching /me/ shortly", nothing further arrived until Feb. 14 when the February and March issues reached me by airmail with 41 p. postage after I had written the BBC a letter of complaint on Jan. 23. Can an organization that is in financial straits 1) afford to leave a check uncollected for about a month and a half, 2) expend almost a dollar on airmail postage and 3) run the risk of alienating a 'customer' in this fashion?

(Syd Osterman, Ont.) On P. 31, Feb RIB, Mr Getzel speculates about the possibility of a Nazi imitation of the BBC during WWII. In order to make this unlikely, news readers identified themselves before reading a bulletin, and soon became familiar to all listeners, making imitation very difficult.

(Scott McClellan, a fur piece from NY City, Willowick, and a lot of other places) Does anyone know of a station that plays bagpipe music regularly? Radio Sanaa on 9780 plays short bursts of it once in a while, and R. New Zealand's APPOINTMENT WITH JOHN GORDON (an excellent show if I've ever heard one) has occasional piping selections. Has anyone heard piping on the BBC? I see they have MUSIC FROM SCOTLAND listed, but I've yet to hear this program. Also, if anyone knows of a BBC program that explores the culture and history of Scotland, I would appreciate hearing about it.

gh: There is of course SCOTLAND THIS WEEK, Tues 1124 & 1709, 2224, but with five minutes it's just a weekly roundup of main events. MUSIC FROM SCOTLAND is currently running at Sat 0730, Tues 1945, and Fri 0215. It's still pretty much the English Broadcasting Corporation....

U S A (Maxfield Greenwood, PA) For those who want to poke and jab at AFRTS, for such trivial matters as having short time slots for minority groups and also PSAs that are admittedly a bit El Jerko material, I can only say, 'egad, don't be so nit-picking!' And more specifically, as regards the minority program slots; since when is it a crime to be a member of a minority in America. Since for too long, I would sadly suggest; and that is why these slots are being programmed--but I would admit, if I was a member of one of these minorities, I myself might be offended, because at times they seem a bit too condescending. But enough of this, and let's get to the core of what constitues the bulk of AFRTS programming: that is, sports events and sports news, and national and world news and commentary.

I for one, am a sports 'nut', as are millions in this country; and AFRTS is the single most fantastic source to hear the game that is not being broadcast to your home QTH, and even more exciting, to us sport addicts, is to many times hear our home team when we are away from home base. This is a marvelous aspect to AFRTS, and if more of the sports made public were aware of this, I think you would be surprised what it would do for the sales of SW receivers. Don't underestimate the craving of the sports addict for more and better sources to keep his craving going; and to avoid delirium tremens. And the more shortwave receivers are sold the more the future of shortwave grows. Man listens to sports event, sports event ends; man twiddles knob--what's this, Russia; my god, Russia! And this is exactly how I got hooked!

And for those craving mucho más sports news and national news and world news than offered elsewhere, again, AFRTS! Don't knock AFRTS, promote it; the more who get aware of it the more there will be a certain percentage tumbling into the ranks of SWL and DXing. I don't want to leave the impression the future of SW resides simply in pumping up receiver sales; it is, of course, vital--but of equal importance is most emphatically innovative and progressive revamping of international shortwave programming, much of which has been already excellently considered by Kim Elliot et al.

gh: I can think of no greater waste of human energy and time than listening or watching team sports. Such games are utterly insignificant in the overall scheme of things, and people who crave such diversion, identifying with 'their' team we must pity for being unable to gain any sense of self-respect thru their own efforts rather than thru those of some dumb linebacker. The amount of money wasted by universities, for example, on spectator athletics is staggering; too much can never be spent on education on research; too little can never be spent on spectator sports. But the people really to blame are all those idiots who spectate, either in person or via radio and TV.

(Robert L. Hoffmann II, NY) Is my handwriting that bad? Look at p. 29, RIB 35. It's not CONSIDDRED, it's CONSIDERED. It's not BALAMACI, it's MALAVASI (one of AFRTS's schizophrenic sportscasters)

gh: Your handwriting is pretty bad, but CONSIDDRED would be my typo. However, you have apparently never seen Balamaci's name in print, while I have, so what makes you think it's Malavasi? I changed it to keep you from making a mistake, but you wouldn't let me get away with it.

Bay of Pigs Group Claims It Owned Station FCC Closed

By IVAN A. CASTRO
And ILEANA OROZA
Herald Staff Writers

The Bay of Pigs Veteran's Association Friday claimed ownership of the anti-Castro amateur radio station closed down in Miami this week by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

The case against the station, which transmitted bi-weekly propaganda programs to Cuba under the name of *Radio Giron*, has been sealed by a federal magistrate.

Veterans Association President Alberto Martinez Echenique said the plant, which had been operating "off and on for quite some time," had been fully reactivated four months ago. He said its last broadcast was Tuesday night at 11:30 p.m.

"We understood that U.S. policy regarding Cuba had changed in the last few months," Martinez Echenique said. "We thought this administration would tolerate a station through which we have broadcast topics such as the situation in Afghanistan, which are not only of interest to us, but to all the world."

U.S. Magistrate Herbert S. Shapiro's order sealing the case means that aside from the press information released when the station closed Thursday night, the U.S. government will not release more details about the shutdown of *Radio Giron*. The station is one of four illegal amateur radio stations that broadcast news, political editorials and protest songs to Cuba.

"In general, they seal a case to protect people's lives or because it's an ongoing investigation and arrests have not been made," said John Sale, chief assistant to the U.S. attorney. "But in this case, if I made a comment, I would be violating federal court order."

The magistrate said sealing the case was "unusual," but he did it "on good cause shown by the government." He would not comment further.

AFTER RECEIVING complaints for months from amateur radio operators in the United States and abroad about powerful interference, the FCC started investigating with long-range, direction-finding equipment. The investigation ended Thursday with the confiscation of several thousand dollars in equipment at a Miami home, the only press release said.

The maximum penalty for unlicensed broadcasting is a $10,000 fine and one year imprisonment.

Despite the shutdown of *Radio Giron*, spokemen for two other Miami-based groups said Friday their organizations will continue broadcasting to Cuba. And Martinez Echenique said the veteran's group would try to find another point from which to broadcast their message to Cuba.

Andres Nazario Sargen, secretary general of Alpha 66, and Marcos Regalado, a member of Abdala, said they foresee no problems with their anti-Castro broadcasts on the 40-meters band. The fourth anti-Castro station is *Radio Libertad* (Radio Liberty), a station monitored in Miami which claims to transmit from the Sierra Maestra mountains in eastern Cuba. It was on the air Friday night.

(Miami Herald, Feb. 9, 1980)

gh: This clipping contradicts another one from the same source but apparently an earlier edition, quoted in March FRENDX LISTENERS NOTEBOOK, page LN-8, that the station busted was Radio Libertad Cubana.

(Louis Goldstein, Grove Hall MA) Last year some readers observed that networks were more interested in local stations carrying commercials that were inserted in net news than they were in radio stations carrying news. According to ABC Radio via AFRTS NEWS NOTES, ABC is reducing the size of its news broadcasts and eliminating others. Suppose it was due to fact that local affiliates were, for the most part, carrying, only the first four or five minutes of expanded 9-15 min news that net was offering. An unfortunate trend. Do not look forward to commercials interrupted by programming.

(Wayne Pierce, Oroville CA) I find subtle ties between VOA's choice of programs and in fact their entire value standard of what life is about. I think being buried in a large choir of similar voices singing the same song may make VOA seem objective, truthful--after all, their reports coincide with the others I hear on ABC, CBS,NBC, PBS so they must be telling the truth. I personally feel the truth to be more than one voice can speak.

(Jim Weber, PA) The Voice of America Friday edition of the EVENING REPORT TO AFRICA up to 2100 8 Feb on 15250 had an interesting story on the alleged murder of Joy Adamson; a story that I had not heard until that moment. It appears that Paul Aki, an employee of Adamson's killed her after being discharged. Where it was first believed that she was mauled by a lion, it now is stated that Mrs. Adamson was stabbed to death. Such a sad story to hear out of an old radio late one afternoon, the winter slanting over the brown fields. An appropriate news item to be heard over SW radio as Joy Adamson, although an American living and working in Africa seemed as much part of Africa as Victoria Falls. Once a well-known writer and then retired in her adopted country, news of Joy Adamson's demise reaches me from another time and place.

(Jeff White, Schaumburg IL) Cf Feb RIB-29, the DX feature I'm writing for VOA Spanish will be on more often than I first thought. Juan decided he wants the program on the air every week rather than twice a month. CLUB DE OYENTES runs GMT Mondays from approx 0108 to 0130, breaks for 3 or 4 minutes of news, then back until 0145. I believe Juan is planning to run the DX segment just after the first piece of music, which would probably put it at about 0113 to 0116 (starting time) and it will probably run 5 minutes, which means it probably will conflict with DX DIGEST. But that's not definite yet and, who knows, DX DIGEST might move before long. The CLUB DE OYENTES DX show will start Sunday Feb. 17 if things proceed according to schedule.

(Tim Hendel, Miami FL) I wonder why VOA does not broadcast in Japanese, Tagalog or Quechua! I heard once that it was proposed to include Quechua in their programs to South America, and it was voted down as not being worth the expenditure. Peking and Moscow evidently do not agree. Of course, anyone in South America sophisticated enough to have and use a SW receiver obviously knows Spanish, but the Quechua programs certainly would have a psychological effect on those for whom it is a first language. By the way, did you ever won-

der where Radio Peking finds people to speak Quechua, or Radio Tirana Indonesian speakers who also know Albanian? I do. gh: Bet they have to work thru a third language.

An interesting station for people outside of North America to listen to would be WINB, Red Lion, Pennsylvania. They broadcast some of the more unorthodox and 'off the wall' religious programs heard on US domestic stations but shunned by the other international missionary stations. They used to carry Carl McIntyre, but I don't think they do any more. By the way, just who pays for WINB; I never hear them asking for money!

gh: It's strictly a commercial operation (gospel hucksters buy the time), an adjunct of WGCB (AM), with a similar format. And the overhead is rather low, as any visitor to the site can attest.

(David K. Maxfield, Ann Arbor MI) Missionary fundamentalist Christianity (KGEI, Belmont CA, 5980, 1200-1230) sounds great in Russian, especially the singing! Splendid listening.

(Mike Tripka, Highland Hts OH) WYFR's planned "Eastern Canadian service" sounds suspiciously like "English to Mexico" of not long ago. Unless they include a sizable portion of French, I will remain skeptical. The same goes for Joseph Costello's plans to beam on shortwave to "Canada and Western Europe".

(Arthur S. Getzel, Flushing NY) I hope Mr. Costello succeeds in setting up a commercial SW service. It may not be devoted to the fine arts but at least it is a move away from the Bible Broadcasters. If the station succeeds, maybe it will start a trend leading to various alternatives. I just hope that we don't read someday of some electronic bible corporation buying the station. By the way, I think the FCC rule preventing broadcasters from using the SW bands is self-serving. I have always had the impression that this law is on the books to preserve the profits of several American networks who shall remain nameless.

gh: For those searching for something besides rig and weather gab on the ham bands, NEW DIRECTIONS RADIO is worth seeking out (tho I've yet to hear anything worthwhile, at least they're trying to promote the 'Mother Earth' angle). Current skeds include these, frequencies subject to QSY to avoid QRM; times are UTC but days are probably local:

Alternate Sources of Energy,	14345, Sun 1930.	NDR East	3894, Wed 0100
Inter-regional	14345, Sun 2000	Columbine	3990, Daily 0100
Great Lakes	28990, Sun 1500	Farm & Plenty	21332, Daily 1330
	3899, Wed 0100		1530
NDR West (day)	7166 daily 1630		1730
NDR West (eve)	3898 / 3870 M/W/Sa 0400	VE1BFL/WB2POB*	14310, Wed 1600

*Cop MacDonald & Art Mourad, NDR movement leaders.

(Joel Rubin, Berkeley CA) At least one PBS station, KQED San Francisco, is rerunning the Patrick McGoohan cult series, THE PRISONER, about a secret agent who, having resigned, wakes up in The Village, a compulsory retirement community for those Who Know Too Much. This program was produced by an ITA company, and was first seen in the U.S. in Summer '68. Most TV series seem to have been written by a committee (perhaps of chimpanzees) but this egotistical, paranoid, dystopian vision is obviously McGoohan's own. A discussion session follows the program, for those who wish to argue over the symbolism with which each episode is rife.

U S S R (Richard Larson, Bochum, West Germany) Radio Moscow seems to have gone disco-mad! And then there are the nauseating letters: "Soviet disco is so much better than western...Soviet music is more tasteful...I prefer Soviet music because it doesn't talk about sex all the time..." I'm not making this up; these are quotes from a program reviewing listeners' letters. (I still claim the best music from the USSR is on the Russian language Mayak service.) R. Moscow seems to be acting like an American AM Top 40 radio station trying to achieve high ratings.

(Ralf Munster, Decatur GA) One point in a letter I sent to RMWS Dec. 12 remarked about their DX program effectively plagiarizing other DX programs, especially a particular one well known to everybody. Well, I have received a reply from Paul Kuznetsov:

(Paul D. Kuznetsov, Moskovskoye Radio, Editor DX Program) Thanks for your critical remarks about my DX program. I don't really insist and do not claim that it is the best on SW. However I am convinced that one cannot invent much in the field of DXing these days so as to make the DX program completely different from others. You are mistaken if you think that SWEDEN CALLING DXers (if it is the program you allude to in your letter) is known to everybody. Since I started the DX program in 1973 (it was then beamed only to North America and was slightly different from what it is now), lots of listeners asked for DX tips because they said they could not obtain them from any other program. Your second point about plagiarizing from Sweden is not new either. However, the point is that about 75% of the DX tips on my program come from contributors who write to other stations too in the hope of hearing their names read on several programs. If you listen to Sweden and this program, you might have noticed that such people as Peter Oliver (Scotland) and Paul Karagianis (from London)

appear on both. If you are so irritated with my DX program, there is a good way not to be. To use your own words, this way is 'well known to everybody'.

gh: Pity the poor 'DXer' who thinks R. Moscow is his only source for DX tips! Due to the many instances of erroneous info--typos etc.--broadcast on SCDX and then a couple of weeks later on RM DX, I remain convinced that some plagiarism was involved. However, in recent months Kuznetsov seems to have been relying more on 'original' material. He has also clarified his way of giving numbers, one of the points I criticized in the PE article.

(Russell Shapiro, WDXC Mid-monther, Jan.) Club members in the London area may remember an article in the (London) Evening Standard following Vladimir Posner's appearance on the JIMMY YOUNG FROM MOSCOW SHOW in which his incredibly privileged upper middle class background was revealed, including education at a fee-paying American school. It seems that his privileged life continues but has merely changed ideology, e.g.: his infamous record collection comprising of discs that cannot be obtained by the ordinary person in the Soviet Union.

gh: Posner also served as spokesman for Soviet policy on one of those late-night network specials on American TV recently, CBS I think. No one thought to ask him about his record collection....

(Dave Mosier, San José CA) I have to agree with Jeff White's comments in RIB 36 regarding the RMWS. Telling the difference between RMWS and the BBCWS has never been a problem for me. Radio Moscow lies when the truth is easier to tell, and the BBC WS tells the truth when it's easier to lie!

(Syd Osterman, Toronto, Ont.) On p. 31 of Feb RIB, Jeff White misses the point of objections to the new pukka English sound of R. Moscow. In many areas of the world the BBC is still regarded as the primary unbiased source of news. Many of these areas are quite unsophisticated and to them, if it sounds like the BBC, it is the BBC! Consequently opportunity exists to introduce false pro-communist slanted news and views with BBC-sounding authenticity. In the case of BBCWS increased finance is required for technical purposes, providing increased coverage, rather than for any program improvement.

gh: People that stupid deserve to be misinformed. R. Moscow does, after all, still ID as R. Moscow!

(Mike Tripka, Highland Heights OH) R. Moscow's reported impersonation of R. Afghanistan and the "National Voice of Iran" is hardly new, contrary to what Arthur Getzel seems to think. "Imagine if a Nazi station had made believe it was the BBC"; I seem to recall reading somewhere that the exact reverse really happened. The British beamed into Germany "Gustav Siegfried Eins", supposedly a German Army station run by a disillusioned German officer inside the Reich. The idea is neither recent nor particularly Communist.

(Scott McClellan, thank goodness nowhere near Moscow) A while back I sent a reception report to RM and included this question: "How many transmitters does RM use? And do you use any in foreign countries?" I got this reply from Mrs Ol'ga Sergeeva, letter dated Nov. 22: "...we have many transmitters. They are situated on the entire territory of the Soviet Union." In my next report, I asked this question: "Do you use any foreign relay transmitters?" Well, this time Mrs Eugenia Stepanova sent this reply, letter dated Dec 28: "...we do not have any relay stations in foreign countries, except in Havana, Cuba." Soviet territory, eh? RHC always says Cuba is a "free territory of America". Hmmmm. At least they admit that they use Havana transmitters now. Is this the first known admittance of the Havana relay coming from RM?

gh: No, to me, it's the second; see Feb RIB-37. I guess Bulgaria doesn't count as a 'foreign' country--it might as well be the Bulgarian S.S.R.

(Robert L. Hoffmann II, NY) On p. 35 of Feb RIB I DYBed a reference to "NY International Airport" instead of JFK Airport on R. Prague. Well, I heard it again (R. Moscow, I think), and it hit me, this isn't stupidity, it's--it's--it's--well, who was the President who 'made the Russians blink' in Cuba? J. F. Kennedy!! Whose name don't the Russians (and friends) want on their broadcasts? J. F. Kennedy!!!

Y U G O S L A V I A (David K. Maxfield, Ann Arbor MI) Titoland does come through--after a fashion--if one persists. On Feb. 12 I heard it on 15240 at 1515 (Arabic program, off 1525), 1530 the new (non-Internationale) signature and YL and OM giving the news in English, followed by music. At 2200 on 9620 I heard the IS again, followed by news by YL, and ID at 2215. Both times the news gave special attention to Tito's heart and kidney troubles. SIO was a brutal 212 with no jamming.

RECYCLE YOUR EXPIRED WRTVH. Very few SWLs and DXers in South Asia, it seems, can afford the WRTVH. Donations of your surplus or expired (1979 preferably) WRTVH which you may no longer need will therefore be gratefully accepted for distribution thru these bona-fide DX clubs: Indian DX Club International, Alok Das Gupta, 26/1B Northern Ave., Calcutta 700030, India; or Union of Asian DXers, G. Victor A. Goonetilleke, 32/4A Malwatte Rd., Dehiwala, Sri Lanka (via George Wood, SCDX Feb. 12)

STUFF WE LIKE - UPDATE

NOTE: This refers to the full listing in Dec. RIB. We realize that many new subscribers do not have access to that and are eager to see the complete schedule of recommended programs. Please be patient --the May issue will carry it. In the meantime you can refer to a very similar listing in February POPULAR ELECTRONICS. The present listing does not deal with frequency changes per se tho new frequencies are shown for entries given because of a change in programming, if known. The BBC listings are drawn from March LONDON CALLING. See also BELIZE, EGYPT, GRENADA in this issue.

GMT S A T U R D A Y

0115, 0215, 0315, 0415 delete RCI MAILBAG
0120-0135 Moscow SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS (Mar. 8, 22 only) 9490
0145-0159 BBC KING OF INSTRUMENTS 7325 ex-AMIS
0230-0245 UN Radio MAGAZINE 15240 6035
0230-0259 BBC TENANT WILDFELL HALL 9410 ex-HERM.
0320-0335 Moscow SOV-AM RELATIONS as 0120
0420-0435 Moscow SOV-AM RELATIONS as 0320; 12050
0430-0444 BBC delete SHAKESPEARE'S HEROES
0530-0544 BBC KING OF INSTRUMENTS ex-MARCH 9410
0605-0700 WGN FRI NITE HILITE not confirmed now
0630-0659 BBC COMMAND PERFORMANCE ex-MAGICAL
0730-0744 BBC SCOTLAND MUSIC ex-ARRANGER 9510
0815-0829 BBC delete INTRUSIVE STATE
0830-0859 BBC delete SONG & DANCE ACT
1315-1329 BBC delete SHAKESPEARE'S HEROES
1630-1659 CBCNS CONQUEST ex-HARPER 9625 11720
1932-1940 Moscow FOLK TALE 7390
2045-2114 BBC delete TASTE OF HUNNI
2115-2144 BBC WORLD OF BALLET 15260 15070 11750
2135-2155 Turkey DX CORNER move to 2215
2145-2159 BBC OWN CORRESPONDENT as 2115 fqs
2215-2235 Turkey DX CORNER ex-LETTERBOX
2350-2400 DW DX 9735 6075 not 6085

S U N D A Y

0130-0154 WCCO NEWSMARK (last Sat) 830
0205-0259 CBL IN OTHER WORDS 740
0235-0255 RA HOLIDAY AUSTRALIA ex-others 21740
0305-0359 CBL ANTHOLOGY 740 (and other CBC)
0330-0359 BBC COMMAND PERFORMANCE ex-FESTS 9410
0430-0444 BBC delete ARRANGER
0508-0559 CBC BEST OF RADIO NOON 740 6195 9625
0530-0544 BBC SOUNDS SOLD MILLION ex-MOTET 9410
0535-0559 AFRTS NAT'L TOWN MEETING 6030 ex-SPL
0730-0744 BBC KING OF INSTS ex-AMIS 9510
1310-1320 CBC VOICE OF THE PIONEER 9625 6065
1323-1330 FIR AIR MAIL 15400
1400-1410 FIR ON THE TOWN 15400
1430-1459 BBC delete HITCHHIKERS GUIDE
1715-1742 BBC MY MUSIC! ex-WORD! 17830 15260
2105-2159 CBC STAGE 11720 9625
2135-2150 Sofia DX PROGRAM delete
2145-2159 BBC OWN CORRESPONDENT moved to Sat

M O N D A Y

0010-0030 VOI CALLING LISTENERS/DX 15582 11637
0048-0058 Moscow FOLK TALES 9490
0110, 0210, 0310, 0410 RCI MAILBAG 5960
0110-0125 VOI CALLING LISTENERS/DX 15582 11637
0210-0225 VOI CALLING LISTENERS/DX 11637 9815
0248-0258 Moscow FOLK TALES 9490
0315-0329 BBC delete INTRUSIVE STATE
0330-0400 HCJB DX PARTY LINE #1 15115 11910 9745
0435-0450 Sofia DX PROGRAM delete
0530-0544 BBC TAKEN AT THE FLOOD; readings 9410
0545-0559 BBC delete PEOPLE & FOLK
0630-0659 BBC ART OF BRENDEL ex-FESTIVALS 9510 6175
0815-0829 BBC delete SHAKESPEARE's HEROES
1130-1159 BBC TENANT WILDFELL HALL ex-HERMSPRONG
1215-1244 BBC delete QUARTET
1400-1429 BBC HITCHHIKER's GUIDE ex-HUNNI 25650
1430-1459 BBC delete TALKING ABOUT MUSIC
2130-2159 BBC delete REITH LECTURES
2135-2155 Turkey delete DX CORNER
2215-2245 Turkey delete STROLLING THRU ANATOLIA
2315-2329 BBC ENCOUNTERS WITH ANIMALS 9590 9410
2330-2359 BBC delete MUSIC SONG AND DANCE ACT

T U E S D A Y

0215-0230 WOWO delete HOLLYWEIRD REPORT
0230-0257 BBC MY MUSIC! ex-WORD! 9410 7325 6175
0430-0444 BBC EARLY MUSIC MASTERS ex-DATE DISC
0630-0659 BBC delete RING UP THE CURTAIN
0730-0744 BBC ENCOUNTERS WITH ANIMALS ex-DATE DISC
0830-0859 BBC WORLD OF BALLET ex-TALKING MUSIC
1130-1157 BBC BRAIN OF BRITAIN 1980 25650 11750
1215-1244 BBC MELOS ENSEMBLE 25650 21710 11750
1345-1429 BBC delete DOCUMENTARIES
1615-1644 BBC delete whatever
2315-2329 BBC delete SHAKESPEARE's HEROES

W E D N E S D A Y /an hour later)

0540-0555 RNZ LETTER FROM AMERICA ex-0440 (all NZ
0730-0744 BBC EARLY MUSIC MASTERS ex-MARCH 9510
0815-0829 BBC HARPSICHORD ex-FOLK 9510
0830-0857 BBC BRAIN OF BRITAIN ex-BOOK QUIZ 9510
1230-1257 Perth GOON SHOW delete (not hrd Feb. 6)
1330-1414 BBC DOCUMENTARIES 25650 21710 11750
1415-1429 BBC REPORT ON RELIGION ditto
1430-1459 BBC WORLD OF BALLET ex-DEAR CHILDREN
1615-1644 BBC REITH LECTURES delete
1715-1744 BBC ART OF BRENDEL ex-RING UP 21710
2030-2059 BBC HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE 17840 15260 11750
2115-2159 BBC delete NATURE, MUSIC
2225-2245 Turkey LETTERBOX ex-FOLK MUSIC 11955

T H U R S D A Y

0330-0359 BBC HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE ex-CHILDREN 9410
0430-0444 BBC KINGSLEY AMIS delete
0630-0659 BBC MELOS ENSEMBLE 9410 6175
1115-1129 BBC PEOPLE & FOLK delete
1615-1644 BBC TENANT OF WILDFELL HALL ex-HERMSPRONG
2135-2155 Turkey DX CORNER delete
2245-2325 RN ONDACURTIÇAO ex-ATIVIDADE 15315

F R I D A Y

0030-0114 BBC delete HITCHHIKER's GUIDE, MARCH
0322-0326 Brasil TELEVISION 15290
0630-0657 BBC delete QUARTET; 0815-0829 MOTET
1215-1244 BBC delete SONG & DANCE ACT
2330-2357 BBC BRAIN OF BRITAIN ex-BOOK QUIZ

(BBC MS World Broadcasting Information, Feb. 14, 1980)

"VOICE OF FREE AFRICA" According to a Radio Mozambique report on 10th 10th February, the office of the British Governor in Rhodesia had informed the Mozambican Government Delegation in Salisbury that the "Voice of Free Africa", nicknamed the "Voice of the Hyena" in Mozambique, would cease its broadcasts from Rhodesian territory from 9th February. The Mozambican-British negotiations aimed at ending that radio programme began during the Lancaster House talks in London and the Mozambican Government continued to put heavy pressure on the British authorities immediately after the cease-fire agreement.

Following the resumption of talks in Salisbury, the British administration (according to the Radio Mozambique report) had reduced "Voice of Free Africa's" broadcasts to three per week (Ed. Note: During January the station was observed broadcasting practically every day). Meanwhile the Mozambican Government had been informed that the British would be able to force the Rhodesians to put an end to the broadcasts from "Voice of Free Africa". Some observers, according to Radio Mozambique, were of the opinion that the British Governor in Rhodesia would like to leave the affair to be decided by a future Rhodesian government. When Radio Mozambique ended the "Voice of Zimbabwe" broadcasts (cf. WBI No. 5 1980), the Rhodesians began saying that the programme had simply been replaced by another called "The external service of Radio Mozambique", but that argument was unacceptable. One could also argue in the same manner against the existence of all external services, including the BBC.

Contrary to the above report, the "Voice of Free Africa" was heard to broadcast on 1020 kHz (variable) from 1630-1730 on 10th, 11th and 12th February material in Portuguese hostile to the Mozambican government. This station, which is believed to broadcast from a transmitter in Gwelo (Rhodesia), was first observed in July 1976.

In a broadcast on 11th February "Voice of Free Africa" stated that "Radio Rumourmonger" (Ed. Note: its nickname for Radio Mozambique) had reported the closure of "Voice of Free Africa". Radio Mozambique had also reported that the station had been operating only three times per week. "Voice of Free Africa" had been broadcasting every day and continued to broadcast, as listeners could testify.

The "Voice of Free Africa" then reiterated the charge that the Mozambican government had demanded the suspension of broadcasts "supposedly" beamed by the "Voice of Free Africa" in return for the suspension of the "Voice of Zimbabwe" programmes by Radio Mozambique.

According to the "Voice of Free Africa", its closure had been reported by Mozambique on 22nd December as well as on 10th February. "The same lie, the same rumour, the same false propaganda" had been reported. If, according to the station, it had really been the "voice of lies, obscurantism, contradiction and false propaganda" as it had been described by Radio Mozambique, it would not have attracted the attention it was now getting. The Mozambican government's "anxiety" to hold negotiations and the pressure brought to bear to close the station "proved" that the entire Mozambican people listened to the "Voice of Free Africa", which "unmasked the false propaganda spread by Machelist communism". The news item broadcast by Radio Mozambique only demonstrated "the influence and popularity of our programmes".

In a comment on Radio Mozambique's external service, the "Voice of Free Africa" said that although the announcers had been changed, the content of the programmes continued to be "absolutely the same as that of the former Voice of Zimbabwe".

Calls for Assistance

(Ken MacHarg, IN) Help--the agency which I direct is one of 21 across the country to receive a grant to help find sponsors for the resettlement of Vietnamese (and other) refugees. One project is a 15-min weekly Vietnamese-language radio program which began Feb. 10. We would like to know of other such programs around the country so we can share info and ideas (we know about the WHO program). Please contact me c/o Kentuckiana Interfaith Community, 850 S. Fourth, Louisville KY 40203 By the way, getting such a program on the air is not easy. Both our local public radio stations turned us down, several commercial stations said how about 2:00 am or Sunday night at 11:45 just before sign off. Finally, WXLN, a local religious-format FM agreed to sell us the time at 2:50 Sunday afternoon (they suggested several other equally good times). I really do understand the commercial station hesitation but public radio sort of threw me. In both cases the indication was that they were worried about--you guessed it--ratings!--or more specifically, audience tune-out.

SUMMER INTERNS AT VOICE OF AMERICA. VOA and AEJ (Association for Education in Journalism) are co-sponsoring the first annual VOA summer internship program. Two interns will be chosen from applications received as soon as possible after this announcement appears in RIB. Pay is approximately $200 per week. Interns will gain practical first hand experience in the VOA newsroom and the Worldwide English Division. Interested students should submit the following: I. Writing samples: A. a 60-line newscast of at least six separate stories with source material attached; B. a 350-word radio essay on a subject of your choice (personal experience, observation, news analysis, think piece, etc.) II. Audition: record your writing samples on either a cassette or 5" 7½ ips reel; be sure to include name and address on the tape. III. Resume: up-to-date summary of your educational and work experience including info related to broadcast journalism. IV. Transcript or unofficial record. These materials should be mailed to Dr. M. Kent Sidel, Dept. of Broadcasting, 295 Comms. Bldg., University of Tennessee, Knoxville TN 37916.

(Louis Goldstein, 150 Columbia Rd, Apt. 5, Grove Hall MA 02121) Any interest in a tape swap net? I could record ALIEN WORLDS in exchange for programs I cannot receive well here. Is it practical?

ELLIOTT'S REACTIONS TO REACTIONS TO ELLIOTT

(Kim Andrew Elliott, Amherst MA) Many thanks to Alan Brinkley, Lamont Jensen, David Maxfield, Arthur Getzel, and Beverly Slomka for taking the time to respond to my January article on alternative international programming approaches. Yes, Lamont Jensen, international broadcasters may use my ideas without infringing on the copyright. But I'm not holding my breath.

While Alan B. Brinkley addressed many of the subsidiary issues presented in my paper, he may have missed its main point, perhaps due to my own lack of clarity. The important factor is that there is, in international broadcasting, a "traditional programming approach." This traditional approach is characterized by 1) content read manuscript-style, 2) content presented in an impersonal third-person mode, and 3) content emphasizing political and politico-economic matters. The existence of these characteristics was supported in a content analysis contained in my dissertation. Perhaps there are listeners in the United States who are willing and able to absorb great quantities of this kind of broadcasting, but I'm sure the number of such persons could be counted on one's left hand with enough fingers left over to play the piccolo.

The great majority of us mortals have fickle and fleeting attentions. The latest thinking in communication theory is that there is no meaning in a message per se; rather, meaning is in the perceptions of the receiver of any communication. Without attention, there is no perception. Thus, international broadcasts which do not attract listener attention are meaningless. Attempting to apply the syntactical aesthetic, or "grammar," of the print medium to the radio medium, as so many international broadcasters are indeed doing, is a sure way to avoid a sizeable attentive audience.

To be sure, there are AS IT HAPPENS, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED (which VOA would do well to broadcast daily at 2200-2330), LETTER FROM AMERICA, and other such excellent programs. But most international broadcast language services are staffed by a small number of persons and could never sustain the effort required for ATC-caliber programming. In such cases, an alternative to translating and reading centrally-prepared talks is to find one or two talented radio personalities who can communicate directly and personally to the audience, bringing the life of the sending country to the listeners throughout the world.

Now to some specific matters: Interviews: Arthur Getzel is correct, there is potential for some very effective and informative give-and-take if interviews are conducted correctly. But the interview responses and actualities I have heard consist mainly of "experts" and others droning on and on, flabby in content, tedious in delivery style, and unintelligible acoustically. Music: There are shortwave listeners who use foreign music as background for their other activities; they can't usually get Balkan, Andean, or Highlife music on their Marantz FM receivers. Even if the listener concentrates more directly on the international music, the type of attention one pays to music is not the same as the type of attention one pays to speech content. International broadcasts stations which insist on mixing music and serious talks are abusing our cognitive processes by this constant shifting.

May Mr. Brinkley and others rest assured: the alternative programming approach will probably not take the airwaves by storm. Even if it does, there is much room for variety. One thing is for certain: any international station which does not take into account the wants and needs of its listeners and potential listeners, concentrating instead on its own production convenience, is a station that will not have any significant audience. Glenn Hauser might object to the word "hobby" as a description of our radio listening (February RIB, p. 10), but no matter how "serious" we are about it, shortwave broadcast listening remains a leisure-time activity. Few of us listen to international broadcasts out of vocational necessity, and none of us rely on such broadcasts for our immediate survival. International broadcast organizations must not forget the leisure function of shortwave listening when designing their programming and evaluating their missions.

Finally, who is this guy Alan B. Brinkley? Despite his thorough panning of my hypotheses, I must respect his opinion and acknowledge his wisdom. Actually, I think we agree more than disagree on programming issues. I do know that he can write circles around me, and that his prose could back my prose into a corner any day; but I'm honored to debate him in the pages of RIB.

(By the way, there was a typo -- my fault -- on the top line of the final page of my January article. Delete the word "are" and the whole sentence will make much more sense.)

(Dave Maxfield, Ann Arbor MI) Brinkley's "Reactions to Elliott's Alternative" (Feb RIB p. 4) is mostly self-important flatulence. Elliott's splendid work (Jan RIB p. 3) does not deserve such rotten treatment.

(Pieter Martins, R. RSA) I am in full agreement with Kim Andrew Elliott's article on "An Alternative approach to International Broadcast Programming". However, I am of the opinion that "Radio Senderland" was misplaced and should have read Radio RSA.

(Tony Jones, Asuncion, Paraguay) I would suggest that Elliott started off his thesis on the basis of several false premises. Unfortunately, I do not have the time to enter into a detailed argument, but here are a few points which may be worthy of consideration. Leaving aside the audience who wants a SW Domestic Service from home (e.g. sailors) there remains one very large group of listeners whom Mr. Elliott has seen fit to omit, namely those sizeable masses in Latin America, the USSR, and other parts of the world, who have only limited access to unbiased news sources, and who wish to hear more of western culture (be it good or bad). To these listeners, the 15 or 30 minute news block is of great importance, and they certainly do not wish to hear a 30 minute 'personality segment' in the middle of a 45 minute jazz concert! Try listening to RFE's Hungarian Service, or R. Habana's Spanish to the Americas, and you might discover that there really is some well prepared and/or meaty programming out there in the ether. Mr. Elliott seems to be basing his arguments on those programs broadcast exclusively in English, and in the main, those beamed towards the United States, a minority audience if ever there was one, when compared to places like S. Asia, China, Latin America and the USSR. Does the author of the article have a working knowledge of any major world language other than English? Has he listened, over an extended period, to English broadcasts intended for areas other than the U.S., and does he know what the large majority of world listeners really want to hear? (After all is said and done, the U.S., for better or for worse, is a unique society, and is most unrepresentative of the world as a whole). International broadcasting, as it stands today, is nothing to be proud of. However, the alternative broadcasting/programming proposed in the article would be merely another symptom of the same sickness.

(Syd Osterman, Toronto, Ont.) After eight and one half RIB pages of awakening from the results of Dr. Elliott's impersonation of Mini van Winkle, I shall attempt a briefer and less profound investigation. First, I wonder if Dr. Elliott considered the timing impact factor of a shortwave program, i.e. boring with breakfast, bearable with brunch, beautiful bedtime! Time zone problems often give us the right program at the wrong time. I suggest to Mr. Brinkley that the medium is most likely to provide the message when the sun is over the yardarm, or below the horizon!

I suggest to Dr. Elliott a fourth, possibly very large, category of listener. Namely, expatriates who want local news, familiar programs, and in many cases sports commentary and results from their homeland. As a British expatriate, I purchased my first commercially built receiver to hear soccer from the BBC. I feel that many expatriates listen only to their homeland on SW radio until they eventually return home. I finally settled in Canada, and conform to Dr. Elliott's "armchair adventurer" category. Seeking SW radio exotica, and of course BBC's Saturday sport. Living in Toronto, I have access to many books, magazines and newspapers. Plus excellent local AM and FM radio programs. Frankly, International Broadcasters are of limited interest to me, although I do try to find time for certain programs delineated in the excellent, much needed SWL centrefold in RIB. Like Mr. Brinkley, I am also an admirer of Mr. Cooke's program. Certainly he is urbane. However, despite his long sojourn in the USA, and interest in such as New Orleans Jazz, in my humble opinion he is still an erudite expatriate Englishman. Remember also that his program is intended primarily for BBC domestic use. Even though the nature of radio programming in UKOGBANI has undergone profound change over the years. Now with a much heavier accent on the easy and popular. I can still detect that the BBC retains elements of the admirable Reithian doctrine of never talking down to the LCD of its audience. Thus, hopefully, uplifting the few from the many.

I hope that Dr. Elliott is not offended if I say that for me, his most interesting statement is on p. 9 of the Feb. RIB. His idea that a DXer may be the ultimate program listener, certainly rings a bell with me. I endeavour to be a DX listener, reporting as much as I can of the exotica that I hear to the readers of RIB. I know that other RIB contributors do likewise. QSL chasing is not the name of this game! Mr. Brinkley in his finale, rightly praises Dr. Elliott. However he also does an injustice to other contributors to RIB, whose point of view on other matters may be equally valid and important.

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VOA: SUBJECTIVE OR OBJECTIVE?

By Kenneth D. MacHarg

The recent events in Iran and Afghanistan have brought a great deal of publicity to VOA, but have also revived the old arguements about the objectivity of VOA broadcasts. Recent AP and Christian Science Monitor reports have highlighted the work of VOA, pointing to a large audience and increased credibility. The Monitor said "In the opinion of a number of sources surveyed by this newspaper (the Afghan) villagers...have gotten reasonably balanced and accurate reports of world events...even if they might have been tilted slightly towards the US viewpoint. No one credits the Voice with the kind of objectivity and balance the BBC is famous for. But then, no one seems to give it the black marks for propaganda it earned during the cold war.

"Mr Tuck (Hans Tuck, acting director of VOA) says the VOA began to build its reputation as a credible news source 'during the Vietnam war and then Watergate"....

"Even so, some critics maintain the VOA still carries the stigma of tilted news.

"One United Nations source complains that the Voice is "independent, but USA-slanted. If events occur in the world, in which Americans are only marginally interested, they won't be reported by the Voice of America, whereas the BBC will report things of no special interest to the UK. It's not so much the presentation as the selection of news items." (Christian Science Monitor, Feb. 7, 1980)

Set beside this report that of Robert Fisk of the London Times in which he says "Not long ago the VOA...reported fierce fighting in Kabul...at the Bala Hissar Fort. It happened that I was listening to the broadcast as I stood on my hotel balcony...and I naturally directed my gaze toward the Bala Hissar....But there was no smoke or fire....Nor was there any fighting.

"It was a powerful demonstration of the difference between the credibility given to long-distance rumors and the factual evidence. Not to put too fine a point upon it, the Voice of America was talking rubbish.

"It was not the only gross exaggeration to emerge from the American radio station...and it is one reason why many Afghans are turning with increased enthusiasm to the BBC"(Courier-Journal, Feb. 15, 1980).

These reports tend to confirm persistant similar comments from regular listners and others with even partial knowledge of VOA operations: an American resident of Bogotá who "never" listens to VOA because it is "unbelievable"; a friend in Turkey who must depend on the BBC for impartial reports of events in Istanbul and Ankara; a quality, professional newsman who refused to consider a VOA position because he didn't want to be an "agent of propaganda"; a member of my Great Decisions discussion group who said that the VOA is the US "Propaganda outlet".

As a daily listner to VOA newscasts, it is my judgement that while these criticisms have some basis, they are at the same time too extreme and critical.

First the positives: VOA newscasts are extremely comprehensive. The guide at the VOA's studio in Washington told me "we are basically an all-news operation"--and that's true. Few other stations have the extended newscasts, with regular in depth reports that VOA does. When broadcasting to a particular region there is heavy emphasis on that area--a factor of vital importance to those there. During the Panamá Canal Treaty Negotiations, when there were frequent tensions, demonstrations, and decisions, the ONLY available source of information as to events in Panama was VOA. Panamanian stations certainly were biased, and the local AFRTS outlet was so panicked and warped it was embarrasing. The BBC carried very little about daily events on these occasions.

Yet, when one listens to VOA there is still the feeling that you have to listen carefully. Clearly the selection of stories, the frequent quotes from State Department press releases, and emphasis given to certain events must be balanced against similar coverage from other sources.

Now, the question is this: is the bias ascertained in VOA good or bad?

From the standpoint of objectivity it is of course bad. If a news agency claims to be objective, to have credibility, then it must not carry the taint of bias. It must never allow itself to emphasize or de-emphasize any particular story or viewpoint. It must clearly label commentary or editorials as such, making them obviously separate from the news presentation. Stories trying to build sympathy for the hostages in Iran, or the censoring of certain events as has been charged in the past, or the use of a continual flow of State Department statements must be eliminated as a general practice. As the Monitor put it "If the Voice is to fulfill its objective of 'conveying information that is credible--that will be accepted as truthful over the air', as Hans Tuck puts it--it will have to prove itself daily to its listners".

On the other hand, perhaps VOA and its listners ought to admit that the VOA is not a truely objective operation--it is the VOICE of America--or at least the voice of American policy. There is not a broadcaster around who doesn't have some message to convey--whether it is a commercial one (U.S. and other commercial stations), a political one (RM,VOA, R.RSA,etc), a religious one (HCJB, TWR, etc) or what-have-you. So what is wrong with saying that the VOA also has a message?

But, before we turn the VOA strictly into that kind of purely propaganda voice, we need to re-affirm that the best role for the VOA is to do the best of both: provide a proclaimed, and then truely objective news service while at the same time reflecting, in well-defined commentaries and editorials the various positions of the U.S. government.

One good step toward this type of operation would be, at best to create a publically-funded but separately run organization similar to the Radio Nederland model. While this has its opportunities for corruption and influence (as former-president Nixon tried to cut funding in an attempt to control PBS), yet it moves the whole operation one step away from being a direct government agency.

While the above is preferable, perhaps it is not the reality of the present or the near future. Thus, as an alternative, one possibility might be an internal separation of the news operation, placed under the head of an experienced journalist who operates separately from the policy and editorial division. One does have to wonder when the newly nominated head of VOA has so little experience in actual broadcast or journalistic work--obviously it smacks of political patronage and is damaging to VOA credibility.

There are many times that I have listened to VOA and been proud of what I have heard: the quality of broadcast; the depth of news coverage; the comprehensive nature of news content. But there have been times that I have wondered...and wished that I could have total confidence in its objectivity and credibility. There have been many times that I have defended the Voice to its critics, but always with that nagging doubt in my own mind. I hope that the time comes soon when I can be as confident and proud of the VOA as my British friends are of the BBC.

THE HOBBY BECOMES POLITICIZED

by Arthur S. Getzel

Yes, it is happening. For many years, the major SW clubs have tried to avoid any bare mention of politics in their respective bulletins. And I, for one, accepted this fact for many years; but, I must admit, begrudgingly. However, I can't hold what I am about to say in me any longer.

A long time ago, when I first became an editor in the ASWLC, there was a man who was the head of a major DX club in Britain. He is dead now, but he wrote me a letter which basically asked me why I was publishing the schedules of the enemies of the Western World? I laughed his letter off as being from a paranoid anti-Communist.

I still disagree with this man's philosophy but not with his general intent. He was bringing politics into the hobby. A taboo!!! But now I am realizing you cannot avoid politics in this hobby of SW. I guess it is for this reason I became a RIBer. RIB was my first chance to express a political belief within the realm of this hobby.

How can we avoid and not think about the fact that there is a crazy man in Iran who is using the shortwave spectrum to denounce our country and further spread a philosophy that is a threat to our national interest? We must talk about it. We must criticize and must analyze.

All SW is political. WARC is political. When a country builds a new transmitter it is political. When a station chooses one language over another it is political. The news that a station broadcasts and even the type of music (e.g. Iran) may be political. We must end the myth that you can separate the political aspects of SWBC from the hobby in general. We can't, we mustn't, and we shouldn't.

I see my radio sitting calmly on its shelf amongst the artifacts of a properly organized society. But what if the world erupted into a war for the third time this century? Suddenly, that machine may turn into an instrument of life or death. This time America may not be spared the dislocation of total war and that radio may become your only link to the nearest refugee station or military installation. It may tell you which roads are clear of brigands and which cities are clear of radiation. Someday, some obscure ham broadcasting on some battery-powered rig may transmit a message that will save your life. And when this happens, even the ham becomes political because he is helping 'you' to fight some enemy--be it nature, the man down the street, or some foreign invader.

At this junxure of world history, we have to start to think about these things--as frightening as they are! Our philosophical games are ending--the games of the real world are intruding, unfortunately, into our hobby.

GH'S DX NEWS FOR RCI DX DIGEST

(Feb. 10 1980, 1800+, 1900+, 11 0300+) Stu Klein caught an ID on the new Peruvian on 5035 I reported two weeks ago. He says it's in Tarapoto, call sign OCX9A or OCY9A, and the name, heard at 1027 February 4th sounds like Radio Imasi. Maxfield Greenwood of Pennsylvania agrees it's in Tarapoto, but to him the ID sounds like Radio Paco. Larry L. Ledlow in Maryland and I heard Argentina's Radio Rivadavia with strong SSB signals around midnight GMT February 4th on 10680 kHz. Jack Jones in Mississippi heard Radio Zínica, Nicaragua, 6120 with a special Sunday morning program in English at 1237 GMT, a time not covered in the schedule I gave last week. This week, BBC Monitoring Service reports that the clandestine station for El Salvador is Radio Revolucionaria del Pueblo, on 1600 kHz; broadcasts are irregular, but they try to be on Tuesdays or Fridays at 1830 or 2400. Radio Mozambique has converted the Voice of Zimbabwe program into its own external service in English, for half an hour at 0400 on 4855 /and 3265, it seems/; 1100 on 11815 and 9605; and 1800 on 4855 and 3265. Uganda's shortwave silence was broken January 25th when the domestic service resumed on 4976. Radio Lebanon's service to South America at 2300-0100 in Portuguese, Arabic and Spanish has been observed on 15340 /co-channel with Habana!/. And BBC MS says Iran plans to go on summer time of GMT plus 4½ on March 21st, so the English broadcast should then move from 1930 to 1830 GMT. George Poppin in California says Radio Singapore quickly returned to 5010, after using 4780 as reported two weeks ago; he's writing them to find out why. /"Testing", they said/. According to Play-DX, the Italian Broadcasting Corporation will be testing on 6275 and 17940; their normal hours are 1000/2000 GMT. Terry Krueger in Florida says Equatorial Guinea has two high power transmitters, heard at 0545 on 4925 and 5005.

(Feb. 11 0100, 13 2130+) Mike Burden of the Free Radio Campaign in Great Britain has some tips for North Americans who would like to hear shortwave broadcasts from Ireland. Radio Condor International Dublin, is again on 11463 kHz, every Sunday at 0900-1400 GMT, hoping for reports from North America. Their address is 53 Charleston Road, Dublin 6. A local radio station on the east coast of Ireland, Boyneside Radio, is radiating a harmonic on 6570, daily at 0700-2100 and there's a chance it could be heard in North America at sign-on. Bill Matthews in Ohio says the Universal Postal Union has declared stamps issued by the Turkish part of Cyprus illegal, and called upon UPU member countries to refuse to handle any mail bearing those stamps. So your wait for a Radio Bayrak QSL may be a long one. The weekly English commentary from Radio Free Europe was on 11770 when last I checked /Feb. 15/ Fridays at 2150-2200 but Bob Padula in Australia says it's on 7115 /not heard there; another report from him says 7165/. For March and April, WYFR is moving its 0100-0500 English broadcast from 9715 to 11740 according to Jim Conrad /tho VOA is still sked until 0200 on 11740!/ Charley Hoffman says they're adding a new language, Italian, at 1830-1900 on 21525, 17845, and 15440, cutting French to half an hour. New broadcasts to Cuba and Canada are also expected in 1980. Jeff White says he'll soon be preparing a fortnightly /changed to weekly/ DX feature in Spanish on the Voice of America, Sunday evening Club de Oyentes program, GMT Mondays after 0100. A special mediumwave DX test for the International Radio Club of America is scheduled Monday morning, February 11th, from WGIG-1440 Brunswick, Georgia, at 0800-1000 GMT. In the February Review of International Broadcasting, Don Moore of Pennsylvania recommends Vatican Radio's CULTURE & RELIGION series, heard on Thursday evenings in North America at 0100 GMT Fridays. This week, it's about the Sumerians and Babylonians. The propagation outlook: solar activity should have peaked on February 9th. The geomagnetic field should be unsettled to active thru February 12th and again on the 23rd to 25th.

(Feb. 17, 1800+, 1900+, 18 0300+) Terry Krueger reports the FCC in Miami busted clandestine Radio Libertad Cubana, GMT February 7th, and confiscated several thousand dollars' worth of equipment. Terry was listening that evening on 7090 variable, and heard nothing out of the ordinary--just Radio Abdala from 0130, and from a different site at 0208, Comandante David's Radio Libertad Cubana, on USB. Press reports quote Radio Abdala as pledging their broadcasts would continue, as would La Voz de Alpha 66, a new anti-Castro station which has been on the air for about a month on no fixed schedule. In Ontario, C. M. Stanbury heard this station on about 7055, February 5th until sign-off at 0147; as well as Radio Abdala on 7080, on the air between 0102 and 0126. Terry Krueger has also been hearing an African on 4000 kHz. QTH-Africa says it's Cameroon, heard from 1700 past 2200. Gerhard Werdin in Sri Lanka reported to DSWCI that it was Yaoundé. QTH Africa also reports some Radio Mozambique frequencies are drifting--6977 on 6980; 9608 heard on 9602, 04 and 07; but 9618 and 11814 have not drifted. On DX JUKE BOX, Richard Ginbey in South Africa reported hearing Lesutu with distorted modulation on 5355 at 0400-2030, but on Wednesdays and Sundays until 2105. These items from Argentina's Asociación DX del Litoral--Cristián Saint Germain reports on Bolivia: Radio Machupo, 5585, signs off at 0200; Radio Comarapa is on 4090 until 0215. Peru, Radio Los Andes on 5300, closes at 0200. WDXC carries a report from Pat Travers that Tralee Community Radio, Ireland was heard on 4696 at 1400-1500. The Voice of Israel is considering slow-scan TV broadcasts on its DX CORNER program. Belgium says its DX CORNER in English is now aired every week instead of twice a month. In Play-DX, Alfredo Polanco Huertas in Colombia reports that R. Mira, 6015, was destroyed by the Dec. 12 quake.

(Feb. 18, 0100+, 20 2130+ (part)) Mike Burden reports a European pirate plans a test broadcast to North America, Sunday, February 24th at 0600-0800 GMT: Radio Impact on 7325. Reports to: Kent Place, Norwell, Newark, Nottinghamshire, England. By the way, the VOA is scheduled from England on the same frequency at 0600-0700! North American pirate "WARG" has made another appearance, February 10th on 6953 at 0700 to sign off at 0925, heard by Derek Lowe in Arkansas and John Fisher in Massachusetts. Shortwave News Service heard a pirate called Radio 12 on 2400 kHz, obviously the harmonic of 1200, January 31st around 0100. Don Moore in Pennsylvania heard a station around 2400 playing oldies January 26th at 0010 to 0357 sign-off. Viewers of PBS television in the US will see an evening of Brazilian TV, live, /well, the last few minutes of it were/ Monday the 18th starting at 10, eastern time. Candice Bergen will host the 90-minute satellite hookup with Rede-Globo. That same evening RCI will have lots of special election coverage. "Channel 2" is the title of a radio play by Steven Freygood this week on CBC Playhouse...Tuesday evening at 8:04 local time. It's about telepathic television in the twenty-first century. Two special National Radio Club mediumwave DX tests are scheduled Monday morning February 18th. At 0630-0730 GMT, WROM-710, Rome Georgia, which could be postponed a week; and at 0701-0730 KURL-730, Billings, Montana. The monthly CBS documentary NEWSMARK airs February 23rd at 7:30 /pm/ Central time on WCCO-830, 7:35 on WBBM-780. The subject: "Cold War Two: America Responds". This week on the Larry King Show on Mutual Radio in the US-Monday night, How the Government Is Fleecing You; Tuesday night, Space Colonization and Industrialization. The propagation outlook: solar activity should remain moderate. The geomagnetic field should be active February 17th and 18th, 23rd and 24th; otherwise unsettled thru March 3rd. George Jacobs is predicting high normal conditions thru February 21st; then a radio storm beginning the 22nd or 23rd and continuing thru the 26th.

(Feb. 24, 1800+, 1900+, 25 0300+) A look at some of the frequency changes effective March 2nd: Radio Nederland's 2030 GMT broadcast via Madagascar replaces 11730 with 9715. WYFR at 0100-0500 replaces 9715 with 11740, but the VOA is still scheduled on 11740 until 0200! Tune in at 0100 to hear who wins. AFRTS resumes an 0200 sign-on, on 6030, giving us back another hour to listen for LRA-36, Antarctica on 6029. The Voice of Israel at 2230, 0000, 0100 and 0200 replaces 7412 with 15582. Radio RSA, South Africa, resumes 21535 at 2100 replacing 11900; and at 0200 moves from 15220 to 15265 in order to avoid Budapest. Austrian Radio at 0430 moves from 15260 to 12015. Here are the Radio Norway frequencies to North America (English on Sundays and GMT Mondays): 1400 on 17840. 1600 on 15345. 1800 on 17755. 2200 on 11860 and 17795. 0000 on 11850. 0200 on 6185, 9550 and 9645. 0400 on 6185 and 9550; and 0600 on 9645. A North American pirate, Voice of the Pyramids, says it will test for Europe March first and eighth for 15 minutes every hour on the hour between 1900 and 2215 GMT, on 15020 or 15010 with 100 watts. Also the following Saturday evenings to North America at 0400 -0430 (GMT Sundays) on 6250 or 6240. There may also be unannounced tests between February 28th and March 8th on the following frequencies plus or minus 20 kHz: 3240, 4670, 5825, 6250, 7470, 9330, 11650 and 15020. Another press report from Miami says the station busted by the FCC was Radio Girón rather than Radio Libertad Cubana, which was on the air after the bust.

(Feb. 25 0100+, 27 2130+) The eagerly-awaited second series of HITCHHIKERS' GUIDE TO THE GALAXY begins February 28th /actually Mar. 3,it seems; Feb & Mar London Calling contradict/ on the BBC World Service, Mondays at 1400, Wednesdays at 2030 and Thursdays at 0330 GMT. HCJB is adding another airing of its Monday DX PARTY LINE, Sunday nights at the same time as Dr. Bundolo on CBCNS, 0330 GMT Mondays, on 15115, etc. Paul Routenburg in Ontario says he hears Turkish Police Radio only on Sundays at 0500 past 0600 GMT. I assume the frequency is 6340. BBC Monitoring Service says Radio Bayrak, Turkish Cyprus, is now in English and Greek, instead of Turkish on 6155 variable at 1000-1300 & 1600-1900; and BBCMS says Afghanistan is using 4460 or 3965 at 1600-1930. Joel Rubin in California says FEN Japan is again using 11750; best to listen before BBC Singapore comes on at 0855. Ralf Munster in Georgia says Radio Australia is on new 15145 around 0700 GMT. The frequency 30474 kHz seems to be a favorite one for low-powered fifth harmonics--I've heard Colombia there and now Victor Goonetilleke in Sri Lanka reports hearing Somalia around 1200 GMT. Tony Jones in Paraguay reports an unlisted Peruvian in Pasco Department on 6140, around 0400 GMT. Mike MacCollum in Indiana says 0700 GMT on weekends is a good time to check for pirate WBLO around 3879, heard February 17th at 0707-0747 with satire, claiming to be in Atlanta, Georgia. And, also reported gy Anthony Pavick in Pennsylvania. A Delaware station, WJWL, 900, Georgetown, will be running a proof of performance test Monday morning February 25th at 0600-0700 GMT or possibly until 0730. They will also have a special 'signal beacon' for DXers. The propagation outlook: Solar activity should be moderate. The geomagnetic field should be active February 24th, March 5th and 6th, otherwise unsettled through March 10th.

W O R L D O F R A D I O, gh's weekly half-hour DX/SWL program, is now carried as follows: Fris 1:30pm EST on WCWP 88.1 Greenvale NY (NYC area); Sats 1:00pm EST on WUOT 91.9 Knoxville & WUTC 88.1 Chattanooga TN; Sats 7:00 pm MST on KUWR 91.9 Laramie WY; Suns 6:30pm MST on KERE 710 Denver CO.

Please encourage your local NPR station to carry it when it becomes available on NPR EPS! -gh

THE (ERSATZ) SKYWAVE BULLETIN

NOTE: Gordon Byrd expects to be back next month once enough new material has accumulated. We have also decided, for the sake of easy future reference and indexing, to restrict this section only to U.S. mediumwave material; mediumwave items from all other countries (e.g. BELIZE) will be in LIP.

(Scott McClellan, Battle Creek MI) Feeling blah? Well, if you're reading this between 10 pm and 2 am eastern time, go turn on your rig and tune to WBZ Boston, "Radio 1030". The LARRY GLICK SHOW is on at this time slot weeknights. This is a phone-in program, but not like any other I've heard. The callers don't talk about politics, etc., but about ESP, hang gliding, UFOs, trivia, and stuff like that. Larry has a great sense of humor, i.e. he gives all first time callers a round of applause, plays "Dixie" for people south of the Mason-Dixon line; I could go on forever, but why not listen for yourself? Also, a shortwave supply store has been advertizing during his show offering a free 48 page catalog. Reception is usually good here, but sometimes R. Centro in Mexico interferes, occasionally overriding WBZ completely.

(Charles George, Dallas TX) In my opinion, the Clear Channels should be done away with, since many cannot be heard that well anyway. For example most of the time I cannot hear WJR because of Cuba and Mexico. In cases like this the stations are just wasting power and keeping another station from serving the public, that could be heard by others in the area. I have not met many people who listen regularly to the Clear Channel stations except for a few DXers and the occasional night owl. It would not be so bad if the C.C. stations would run more cultural programs.

(Sandy Blaize, Metairie LA) The FCC proposal to possibly shut down the 50 kW clears to provide local radio channels to 'ethnic groups' is made even more stupid by the recent disaster in Mobile, AL and Pascagoula MS. All the 'local' stations either had their towers blown down or power cut off and no emergency power available! WWL-870 New Orleans and KMOX-1120 St. Louis provided the only outside news available to the disaster area for the first couple of days after hurricaine Frederic razed the two towns. People in some places were able to phone in to the stations and inform others nearby of their welfare and conditions. What would they have done without the Clears??? Let's write to the FCC and protest the proposed docket that would eliminate 50 kW stations on clear channels.

(Paul S. Lotsof, SWNS) I've just thought of a novel means to use the radio spectrum to optimum advantage. Should the AM broadcast band be extended above 1600 kHz, all newly created channels should be set aside for religious broadcasting. All existing religious stations could then be re-assigned to the newly created Jesus Band. I'm confident that the little old ladies of the world would have no objections to purchasing new radios to find out where to send money for Salvation. And the channels presently used by religious broadcasters (both AM and FM) could be re-assigned to legitimate applications.

(Brien P. A. Roome, Dollard des Ormeaux PQ) I am not exactly sure what this clear channel controversy is about. Am I correct in thinking that your FCC are proposing to restrict the nighttime patterns of such stations as WBZ, WLW, WCBS, WLS, etc.? I have listend to many U.S. clears and always enjoyed the programming, especially all-news WCBS. When I travel at night in the car the clears are very welcome including the CBC ones in the east, CBL, CBM, CBA. Do the U.S. FCC really wish to eliminate U.S. clears in order that every little community can have its own 24-hour low power MOR or pop station? I am not against this but surely FM would be more appropriate as a medium for this policy.

(Gordon Byrd, Tampa FL) WIL-1430 St. Louis is airing SUNDAY FUNNIES at midnight Saturday ELT. Robert C. Yentema, Mercury NV says many CBS affiliates on the West Coast are still carrying MUTUAL RADIO THEATER (ELT): 11:07 pm KCBS-740, 11:10 pm KNX-1070, 12:07 am KFBK-1530. CBS RADIO MYSTERY THEATRE changes: 12:07 am KOB-770, 12:30 am KOA-850, 1:07 am KDWN-720.

(Charles Kristan, PA) I don't think KDKA-1020 gets enough credit for their talk show. They don't have any big guests on, but just local. But I think this show is better than LARRY KING. So does KDKA management. They have 12 straight hours of non-boring talk, ROY FOXX SHOW at 6:00-9:00, JOHN CIGNA SHOW at 9:00-12:00, and PERRY MARSHELL at 12:00-6:00. I recommend it; also, a daily news program NINETY TO SIX at 4:30-6:00 pm. On Sunday at 6:00-10:00 pm KDKA has a program called AMPLIFY, call-in about current affairs; 10:00-12:00 generally religious. They then begin testing and often go off the air, but sometimes PERRY MARSHELL will come on about an hour or a sesqui before 6:00 am.

(David Woodward, Washington DC) WGN-720 Chicago offers an old time radio program 0230-0300 GMT Mons.

(Tom Guild, Cary NC) The WPTF-680 Raliegh jazz show is THE GENTLE JAZZ, Sats at 10 pm and for more than a year /as of Sept. 15/ Bill Frazier has been the host. By the way, I'm program director of WPTF's sister station, WQDR-94-FM, and our jazz show is Sundays at 7:30 pm after ALIEN WORLDS.

(Ken MacHarg, IN) WHAS has carried some drama locally produced by Tower Hill Productions, headed by Jim Ferguson and Morris Shaw. Future shows may be syndicated. Real radio may yet come back!

R.I.B. EN ESPAÑOL

por Rónald F. Schatz

Señoras y señores, damas y caballeros, DX-istas y ondacortistas, amigos todos, bienvenidos a la primera edición de ésta, su RIB en español, dedicada a la programación internacional en castellano. Esta, de veras, es un experimento - una prueba; queremos averiguar que exista bastante interés entre ustedes para apoyar tal sección dentro de una revista en inglés, si hay un número suficiente de ustedes que oigan a las transmisiones de OC en este idioma, pues ésta puede llegar a serse exitosa - ó al contrario. Veremos.

"RIB en español" puede probarse útil por las siguientes áreas de nuestro interés común:

1) Servir como un foro para comentar, discutirse, criticar, quejarse, etc. sobre la programación mundial en castellano.

2) Proveer un medio para mejorar la calidad de dicha programación através de nuestros comentos leídos por las varias empresas internacionales de radiodifusión que se subscriben a la RIB.

3) Apoyar el Lobby DX entre los pueblos latinos.

4) Formar una base para la confederación de los varios DX-clubes latinos, del mismo modo de la ANARC, RDXA, EDXC, etc.

Bueno, ésta siendo la primera edición, permítanme introducirles a su redactor: Gringo, residente de la Miami metropolitana ya hace 20 años. Miembro del Nacional Radio Club (NRC), que es dedicado a la DX de la banda de onda larga. Profesión - la electrónica. Mi nombre ha aparecido muchas veces dentro de las páginas de muchos boletines DX en el papel de fuente de la información radial desde el Caribe, y Cuba en especial. Sí, fui yo que acompañé a nuestro venerable editor en su viaje recién cumplido al llamado "territorio libre en América". Ya me conocen.

Ahora, amigos, qué tienen ustedes que decir? Hé aquí las reglas (siempre las reglas) para contribuir a "RIB en español":

1) Contribuir en la misma manera como a la RIB en inglés - excepto en español.

2) Limitar las discusiones al campo de la radiodifusión iberoamericana (programación en español - ou em português).

3) Si eres gringo enamorado de esta lengua, nota bien: Si no vale decir en inglés, tampoco vale decir en castellano.

4) Enviar sus contribuciones a su redactor gringo aplatanado directamente a la siguiente dirección: 5651 S.W. 2'da Corte (106); Margate, FL 33068 E.U.A. Al momento no hay final, usaré qué recibo hasta entonces.

5) Si hará un "NO CREER QUE ..." si la hay bastante interés.

Ahora, amigos - a la carga!

CUBA La radiodifusión doméstica ha visto grandes cambios dentro de los meses pasados. La cadena CMKC Radio Revolución se redujo a una emisora sola en Santiago de Cuba (1200 kHz), puesto que la provincia anterior de Oriente se cortó en cinco nuevas. Sigue una lista de las 14 nuevas provincias cubanas juntas con sus cadenas provinciales:

Camagüey, Cadena Agramonte
Ciego de Avila, Radio Surcos
Cienfuegos, Radio Ciudad del Mar
Radio Ciudad de la Habana
Holguín, Radio Angúlo
Matanzas, Radio 26
Pinar del Río, Radio Guamá
Radio Sancti-Spíritus

Granma, Radio Bayamo
Guantánamo, CMKS y CMDX
La Habana, Radio Cadena Habana
Santiago, CMKC Radio Revolución
Las Tunas, Radio Victoria
Isla de la Juventud, Radio Caribe

El Ministerio de Comunicaciones opera una estación "INTERSPUTNIK" ubicada en Jaruco, un poco al sudeste de la capital. A través de estos equipos se efectúa el intercambio de programas entre RHC y Radio Moscú. § Además de su programación al hemisferio por RHC en OC, hay también la Voz de Cuba, transmitiendo por la madrugada en onda larga (0000-0530, hora de Cuba). § La Isla de la Juventud, anteriormente Pinos, ya es su nombre oficial desde Junio 1978.

TELEPROGRAMAS QUE ME GUSTAN

BRASIL - "Fantástico", domingos pela noite, Rede-Globo.

COLOMBIA - "Embajadores de la música colombiana", videotape distribuida.

ESPAÑA - "Señoras y señores" (variedades), TVE. § "300 Millones" (telerevista), TVE, videotape.

E.U.A. - "Qué Pasa, USA?", WPBT Miami vía PBS. § "Fúttol Internacional", sábados por la tarde, SIN. § "Show de Leopoldo Fernández", SIN.

MEXICO - "Fiebre" (disco), sábados por la noche. § "Noches Tapatías (música ranchera). § "Siempre en Domingo", domingos - 5 horas por la noche. § "24 Horas" (noticiero), L-V por la noche. Todos a través de TeleviSA.

Bueno, amigos, estoy andando un poquito atrasado al momento, pues la cierro hasta el próximo mes. Dejo un espacio abajo para unos comentos de nuestro editor, que escribe bastante bien español. Hasta entonces aguardo sus contribuciones para la próxima. 73 de RFS.

DON'T YOU BELIEVE...

...the "Box 321" address for NASWA or the "Box 697" address for SPEEDX subscription inquiries or that Don Johnson is at the latter address; as given on R. RSA DX CORNER Feb. 10. The NASWA address went out of use two years ago; and the SPEEDX address is for its distrib. editor (gh)

...Jim Vastenhoud's statement or at least implication on RCI DX DIGEST Feb. 11 that R. Nederland's feed to Bonaire is partially (France to Curaçao) via satellite. Anyone can check this out on the 2030 GMT broadcast which is from all three sites. The Bonaire audio is not sufficiently delayed (compared to Lopik) to have been sent via satellite; unlike the audio from Madagascar, which does run a couple of words behind (gh)

...that Irish pirate R. Condor is on 11643 instead of 11463 as I was misquoted in Feb. SPEEDX-GRAM or that Austria is on 5995, or that Bulgaria's mid-season changes were 'announced'--un-(gh)

...that there are hundreds of thousands of Jewish immigrants in New York from the USSR. More like hundreds, here in Brooklyn's Brighton Beach section. Soviets will not allow many to emigrate and those that do must pay back costs of their education, etc. (Charles Schancer, Brooklyn NY)

...that I reported Kol Israel on RCI as using 11673 instead of 11637 as misquoted in QTH=Africa, Jan. 30, or that 29720 was still in use by the time that edition was published (gh)

...that the station on 25285 kHz reported by Jean-Marie Pinard in p. 17, WWDXC DX Magazine, Jan., was IBA 2nd program in Hebrew--IBA uses some weird frequencies, but that one is the 5th harmonic of Gjirokaster, Albania--does Albanian really sound that much like Hebrew? (gh)

...that the annual ANARC conventions are called "ANARCON", despite gh's persistent use of this name. It was "ANARC 78","ANARC 79", and it will be "ANARC 80," "ANARC 81," and so on, ad infinitum. This nomenclature is one of the few traditions DX listening has. I have a feeling gh will have a response to this (Kim Andrew Elliott, MA) Right. ANARC is the name of the organization, not the annual convention; therefore the annual convention should have a different name. Following the tradition of SF 'cons', I coined the new word (well, not completely, since they tack 'con' onto the city, etc.). It is significant, I think, if not a burning issue, to make a clear distinction between ANARC and the ANARC Convention (gh)

...that I reported HCJB's 26020 test on R. Nederland's DX program as beamed to Europe, as misquoted by the Asociación DX del Litoral in its Feb-Mar DX-Argentina; HCJB says to North America (gh)

...that Tbilisi is in Karelia or Petrozavodsk in Georgia, instead of vice versa, as they appeared in the Jan. L'Onde loggings at 0310 GMT from Victor C. Jaar (gh)

...that Russia has invaded Pakistan (at least as of late January) as Kenneth Vito Zichi commented on page 37 of Feb. ASWLC (gh)

...Gordon Byrd, Jan. RIB p. 13, that NY and Boston accents are similar. NY sounds like Boston only to the uneducated rebs (hi). I'm a native New Yawker who spent 4 years in the Baaston area and especially at the beginning, the natives and I found our accents (not to mention much of our vocabularies!) mutually unintelligible (Joel Rubin, Berkeley CA)

...that Anastasio Somoza D. is manager of Radio Sandino in Nicaragua, as in the 1980 WRTVH. Evidently all that has been changed are the names of a few stations. The least they could have done was delete the names of the obviously out of date station personnel, as there seems to have been enough time since the events of last summer. The last I read, Somoza was in Paraguay (Jack Lattemann, Seattle WA)

...that the CBCNS could have been heard on 4855, as reported by Hampton, IL, in January ASWLC without question from the editor; or that I reported R. Moscow via Cuba on 11920, same page. It was R. Habana, tho the site was in question (gh)

...that 30575 is the 5th harmonic of 6125, as given in my DX report printed in Dec CANDX and elsewhere. When will I learn to divide them all out carefully? 5 x 6115 (gh) ummm, Jan CANDX.

...that FRENDX loggings aren't 'fantastic'. The Jan LRB-3 log of 5980 Taiwan (Voice of Asia) with Woman In Chinese program on the 'background of bluegrass music with barnyard sounds'. Surely, a classic report from a Chinese-speaking musicologist. I would have assumed a new VOA site in Botswana with programs for Chinese living in Africa (Syd Osterman, Ont.)

...some details of the ORF/Austria schedule issued in Jan. by BBCMS attributed to 'per ORF'--6155 still listed at 0130 instead of 5945 tho they haven't been there for years; 21640 at 0900 was already out of date, as was 17860 at 1230. Lesson: Monitor it yourself, DYB anybody (gh)

...AFRTS printed schedule saying 6030 is on 49.75m when to Europe and 40.75m when to Caribbean and Antarctic, 11 Nov. issue (Robert L. Hoffmann II, New Hyde Park NY)

...the "Shortwave Guide" I received with my new Radio Shack Realistic DX-60 receiver. It gives detailed instructions on time conversions but no times are given for stations listed! How long has WWV been away from Greenbelt MD? Where are the 13 and 11m bands--and look at the listings--how old is this? I don't know! (Robert L. Hoffman II, NY) Incredibly out of date. Lists Tirana on 9677, R. Nacional Buenos Aires on 15295, ABC Melbourne on 7220, R. Australia as VLR9 on 9680, R. Austria as on 15240 and 17765; Brussels on 9720 and 11720 (only), R. Sofia on 9560, Burma on 6035, Cambodia on 17705, Cameroon on 6050, call letters for R. Canada on 9630 and 11720, CBNX and CBUX calls which were long ago changed to CKZN and CKZU, "Ceylon" on 9670, R. Peking on 11800, "French-African Congo", R. Havana on 9670 and 15135, BBC Cyprus on 15375, R. Prague on 9550, Voice of Denmark on 9520 (remember that?), Santo Domingo TV on 9505, Egypt (U.A.R.) on 9780 and 11915, El Salvador on 9555, R. Voice of Gospel, Ethiopia on 15410, Finland on 15190, "Paris Vous Parle" on 7160, 9560, 11920, 15160, RBI on 11920, DW on 9545 and 15275 (only) with antiquated calls DMQ9 and DMQ15, Ghana on 11800 and 17910, BBC only on 7325, 9825, 15180 and 17990. The only Greece station listed is "R. Thesaloniki" on 9710. R. Nacional Quezaltenango 11700, long silent,"E. Cultual", TGNB on 9670, Delhi on 15225 and 15310, V. of Indonesia on 9770 and 11715, "R. Iran" on 7100, R. Oglaigh Na H-Eireann on 17544--yet the Voice of Israel has up-to-date listings on 11655 and 7412--I'll bet I know who's responsible for that! R. Abidjan on 11820, JOA17, 17875 as R. Japan's only fq; Beirut on 9620 and 11890; R. Village, ELWA on 11975 and 15155. "R. Comerciales", (a list-name never used on the air even when the station was active), Mexico on 11880. TWR Monte Carlo on 9633. R. Club, Lourenço Marques, CR7AA on 7250 and 11760; "R. Netherlands", 5985, 15425, 17810, "N.Z. Calling" on 9540, 15280. Ibadan, Nigeria on 6185, R. Pakistan on 15190, three Peruvians picked out of the hat and not likely to be heard on 9770, 15150, 9570; R. Warsaw on 7925, 9925; "Lisbon Calling" on 15380. Rhodesia & Nyasaland (!!) on 7285. R. Senegal on 9720. "Springbrook Radio" on 11900; R. Nacional, Spain on 9615, R. Surinam on 15445, R. Sweden on 11805, R. Americas, Swan Island on 6000; old Swiss calls HER4 and HER5 on 9535 and 11865; R. Damascus on 15165; R. Ankara on 15160. Alma Ata on 10530, R. Moscow on 9860 and 11730; V. of Vietnam on 15100. Windward Islands BC on 5010 and 11730. And for good measure 5 non-existent clandestines, R. Libertad on 7313, R. Omega on 11550, R. Portugal Livre on 9575, R. Peykje /sic/ on 11400 and 11695. The only VOA fq shown is 5965; all three AFRTS frequencies are wrong, 15210, 15225, 15270, with the last two being called "WDS1" and "WDS13", having once been from the WDSI transmitter. United Nations on 6190 and 6590. Incredible! All this information is either 15-20 years out of date, imaginary, or irrelevant to North America. Further proof, if any is needed, that when you buy from Radio Shack, you buy crap (gh)

...the Ecuadorian timesignal station HD2IOA schedule on p. 375 of the 1979 WRTVH and repeated on p. 365 of the 1980; it's in EST, not GMT (gh)

...that the DX-300 is worthless, has image problems, or deserves so much blame that it is getting from people who don't read the owner's manual (Diane Lévesque, IL)

RIB COVER MATERIAL NEEDED Should be same shape and size as on cover of last issue. Good contrast black & white photos of station personalities; line drawing in ink avoiding gray shading.

REACTIONS TO R.I.B.

(Richard Lund, Newfolden MN) International broadcasting is fascinating, but in such a constant state of flux that one needs a succinct guide such as RIB constantly at one's fingertips. You deliver what I want: hobby chatter, updated frequency guides, and a digest of the more important developments in international broadcasting. Yes, I am interested in CBS radio transcripts. Items such as this and Gordon's Skywave Bulletin remind me there are still good programs to be found on the US broadcast band--a point many newspapers have forgotten. I look forward to the next 12 issues.

(Steve Webster, Scarborough Ont.) Keep up the great work with RIB. It's the best radio publication going right now, in my opinion. Try to keep the humor in it. I loved SCRAPS.

(V. Carlson, Lynden WA) My high opinion of your publication has just taken a severe down-turn because of the item you published on p. 2, No. 36, "DXing According to Playboy" by S. Osterman. You evidently thought the article was of some value to the hobby of DXing and SW listening; or due to your very busy schedule, you didn't have time to read it and included it just because of the title. I read it and re-read it trying to determine what value it could possibly have. Was it supposed to be amusing? Was it written as satire? I finally decided that my impression of the article after the initial reading was correct. It is simply a filthy, worthless piece of trash not fit for your waste basket, let alone space in your publication. I am hoping you will find sufficient worthwhile material in the future that fulfills the purpose of your magazine as stated.

(David Audette, Wilbraham MA) I was very impressed with the sample RIB I received. I really didn't expect such an information-packed publication. I expected a small pamphlet, but instead I received a very well written, compiled and published magazine. For these reasons I take great pleasure in submitting my subscription.

(Douglas Irwin, Durham NH) RIB's clarity and content force me to enclose my subscription dues. I did have a subscription to FRENDX but I intend to cancel it as soon as possible. FRENDX is poorly organized and not useful near my set, unlike the ASWLC bulletin. It is used very often near my set, it's clear, easy to use and funner to read than the dry FRENDX. I would much rather contribute to SWL or RIB than the crusty, impersonal NASWA club.

(Doug Everitt, Enid OK) RIB seems to be getting better all the time. I especially like the new center-feature, STUFF WE LIKE. I've had a good time trying out some of the suggested programs, and I definitely hope gh will have enough time to keep this as a regular feature. It manages to occupy my spare hours as television continues its downhill slide.

(Bob Rankin, Lawrence KS) I enjoy your column in NASWA, and also RIB--especially the wholly spurious SWL vs. DXer debates!

(Pieter Martins, R. RSA) Referring to gh's comments in Sept RIB regarding R. RSA's DX CORNER on July 21-23, it is Glenn Hauser who has missed the boat with his RIB publication, as it diverts from the true essense of DXing. Glenn Hauser being the editor of RIB obviously has the right to publish whatever he feels fit and moreover, has the art of tailoring RIB by means of sensationalism based on the omission of certain items and over-emphasis of others, which in my opinion is a low form of trying to boost the circulation of RIB. Whether this will be published or not, is debatable, but the same DX Corner programme also contained the following remarks concerning RIB /more or less duplicating what he has said here and what appears on p. 2, Sept RIB -gh/.

gh: Pieter seems unaware that RIB was founded to be an alternative to "DX" oriented publications, and is therefore quite satisfied to 'divert from the true essense of DXing'. It is not a magazine trying but failing to be a DX publication; it is one dealing with the prime purpose of broadcasting --programming--rather than the speciality of picking up carriers with little or no concern for what is being modulated upon them, which specialty already has plenty of publications serving it. As for sensationalism, you've got to take an overview--one 'sensational' comment may be rebutted elsewhere in the same issue or in the next one. This isn't a tea party, but real people expressing real opinions, even if other people think they're all wrong.

(Jan Tunér, Grängesberg, Sweden) I enjoy RIB very much. You have had no contributions from me, because I don't listen to programmes on SW; I am rather a station hunter. But all the same I find it interesting to follow the development of this laudable side of the hobby and there is in fact much for the station hunter too.

(Dean Fick, Lakeside OH) I can think of nothing bad about RIB; it is my number one reference guide to program news. However, one mystery remains in my mind. How can one man publish RIB, do a gigantic column in NASWA FRENDX and other commercial magazines, support countless other DX societies and who knows what else?? Glenn, are you a robot???

gh: No, I am a fool, as I see my life ticking away....but do keep on massaging my ego.

(Jay Novello, Endwell NY) Unsigned article in Aug RIB p. 7 on Tuning the RF-2800 was very helpful to me. I'm getting much more pleasure out of my radio now that I know how to use it! It really works!

(Doug Clarke, Chesapeake VA) How I ever made it with SWL without RIB I'll never know. Your publication is the greatest. Thanks for your service.

(Rufus Jordan, Pittsburgh PA) $12 is a bargain rate. To paraphrase a well-known historical quote--never in the history of mankind have so many paid so little to receive so much. Keep up the good work--it is an absolutely first rate effort.

(Steve Kennedy, Immokalee FL) When I started with RIB it only cost $6, but now at $12, RIB is hard to beat. Keep up the good work.

(Sandy Blaize, St. Croix, VI) RIB seems to be the only medium where we can praise or take to task the broadcasters. I hope it has been valuable 'feedback' for them.

(J. Malcolm Ross, Wilkes-Barre PA) I don't believe it. I SIMPLY DON'T BELIEVE IT! I mailed my check and subscription for RIB on Tuesday the 11th and received your program yesterday the 18th! You're gonna set back the whole publishing industry to the stone age. Average waiting period now-a-days for new subs is 6-8 weeks. What's a matter with you fella? As an ex-copy writer I appreciate the quality, organization and consistency of your efforts. I'm a newcomer to the hobby and have to read everything twice to understand, but when I do you sure make sense. Congrats.

gh: Sample requests and subs are normally processed the same day received; why wait?

(Mark Zutkoff, Timonium MD) Your journal is an intriguing one... There's something about the writing in RIB that makes me wish I'd taken code-breaking. Understood: with the amount of space you have to work with, and the amount of typing you have to do, you're gonna take as many shortcuts as possible. But to someone who doesn't listen seven days a week, much less to the DX programs, much of the writing needs to be deciphered. All I'm asking is a bit more clarity in statements, both from correspondents and from you. Your asides are very interesting; I just wish I understood the root of them sometimes.

gh: It's true, RIB favors those who are actively involved over those who have only a casual interest. This is the way I like it, since I feel my efforts are more productive.

(Mark Basick, Orange CA) After receiving a copy of RIB in Jan 78, I have seen it evolve into a very fast-paced, entertaining, but most of all informative publication. Here's my renewal.

(William Krause, Anoka MN) I would like to offer a testimonial for RIB. While I find some of the opinions expressed in RIB perhaps erroneously based, I firmly believe that the lively exchange of opinion and information offered in RIB greatly benefits the hobby. I believe that the hobby can only grow and prosper with such an exchange. I always thought that freedom of expression was the cornerstone of democracy and helped build our society. I think it unfortunate that some clubs shy so desperately away from any controversy whatsoever. RIB also provides just as much hard factual information as the journals of all those bland clubs.

(Paul A. Gilster, Raleigh NC) You've published something worth a year's subscription by itself with your STUFF WE LIKE listing. I've already heard a good many things that I otherwise would have missed. A lot of the info you present is available thru other sources, but only bit by bit, and I think you're really doing a service by putting it all together. The listings for CBS MYSTERY THEATRE are useful, tho I suppose the quality of the programming makes me less than enthusiastic about seeing much space devoted to them. Really, the contrast between, say BBC 30-MINUTE THEATRE and the CBS MYSTERY THEATER is astonishing. I think I'll stick with the BBC until CBS can obtain the services of some writers with a modicum of imagination and talent.

(Charles J. Kristan, Delmont PA) I just finished reading the /sample/ RIB, and let me say it was just fantastic. To prove it is the $12 you will find in the envelope.

(Brien P. A. Roome, Dollard des Ormeaux, PQ) RIB in general--excellent. I enjoy the many varied views expressed although I believe there should be less polemics when writing about pet peeves, i.e. communist stations, religious stations. Let's always have as many opinions as possible but let's use dialogue to express these views, proper English and less provocative adjectives, e.g. "Commie", "red", etc.

(Michael C. Byrne, Charters Towers, Qsld, Australia) I eagerly anticipate my copy of RIB each month, as it is an invaluable guide to the many interesting programmes available on the SW bands.

(R. Steck, Lake Forest IL) I do not feel that the regular use of the CBS transcripts, as in Feb RIB, is appropriate. They have nothing to do with international broadcasting. Otherwise, I enjoy RIB.

(Alan Brinkley, Chapel Hill NC) It is now a year that I have been reading RIB and being increasingly impressed by your omnipresence on the HF bands, in RIB, in PE, in Listeners Notebook, and presumably in some gainful employment as well as all this service to the SW fraternity, and have finally concluded that you cannot possibly be one mortal man, but absolutely have to be a multinational industry... I most appreciate whatever program listings you include under LIP. Frankly, I value rather less the often opinionated, not always accurate reader judgments and comments which fill so much space. I have learned to discern a few others who make judgments for which I can at least calculate an index of refraction, but I consistently find the 'gh:' contributions the most likely to be helpful so I will go on reading FRENDX for LN, but not for much else. I really wish that I could see RIB evolve into a staff operation, which you would direct, but substantially supported financially by the broadcasters themselves and supported by having them accept your review as the main clearing house for all programming information for their listeners. I am on the mailing lists of probably 40-odd broadcasters who send me at least two or three pieces of mail a year. If they would invest even part of what they spend now, conveying the information to RIB, I would be happy to be dropped from their mailing lists and do without all the gifts they send at great expense. I really think that the one big point which nearly all of the broadcasters miss is that there are a great many listeners who would rather have the money invested in programming and adequate advance notice of the content of programming so that one can make better informed choices when he begins to turn the dial.

I have no idea what the potential readership might be for a publication that was able to do more program listing in advance and carried something closer to responsible criticism after broadcasting. When you operate an open forum of listener reactions, you pretty well have to edit from what you get sent, but the unevenness troubles me. The vastly enlarged RIB of my dreams would also review equipment systematically; run classified ads; and publish thorough bandscans from a geographically diverse group of monitors, rather than the hit-and-miss log sections of SW magazines, or the long-delayed listings in WRTVH.

(Copthorne Macdonald, The Mother Earth News, Nov/Dec 1979) To find out which foreign programs are worth hunting for and listening to, you can check out the monthly RIB, which publishes the opinions and criticism of folks who listen to SWBC, and presents both sides of controversial issues as well. The Review also contains articles of interest to SW fans, and up-to-date lists of English-language programs that are beamed to North America....

(Michael Bolitho, Toronto, Ont.) I imagine that most RIB subscribers are essentially interested in the Listener Insights on Programming (LIP) while the Forum On Other Topics (FOOT) section is a bonus. However, altho I do listen seriously to a few programmes, my main interest of late has been more in the 'traditional' areas of the hobby. I usually skim thru LIP to see what there is in the way of something different or interesting on the programming scene. But then, I read in great detail the FOOT, Typs from Syd, DX Digest transcripts and the centre feature.

For me RIB fulfills a role that every MW listeners' club lets their membership do--the right to air my views on topics connected with radio. Check out IRCA's "Forum" or NRC's "Musings" columns, and you'll see opinions expressed by members on a wide variety of issues connected with the hobby. With the exception of SPEEDX in a very minor fashion, no SW club (at least in North America) seems to have undertaken such a column and done it successfully, although some have tried.

Furthermore, I like RIB's "tongue-in-cheek' attitude with regard to the sacred cows of this hobby. Like the late, lamented Charlie Loudenboomer in FRENDX, RIB spares no one, while at the same time trying to be fair to all. It is nice to receive RIB each month, because it is such a change from the all-figures shortwave radio club bulletin, which aids my listening but does little to entertain me.

(Paul Kowalski, Milwaukee WI) Your RIB is an instant hit with me. I will be looking forward to each and every issue. Thank you very much for helping put "Entertainment" in the hobby.

(Tom Walsh, Chelmsford MA) Listening and program aspects of SWL are most often neglected. Your RIB seems to be an excellent effort to remedy that. It is the best thing I've ever seen.

(Louis Goldstein, Grove Hall MA) RIB ceases to amaze me in the increasing improvement of subject matter covered and format. Stuff We Like and the MW section are two areas which add much to enjoyment of publication and help me avoid a lot of repeats on both CBS Mystery Theatre and Sears Radio Theatre. /written last August; and many of the entries in this section are as old -gh/

(Jonathan L. Mortimer, Palm Beach FL) This seems like a good opportunity to let you know how much I enjoy RIB. I think it is a much more enjoyable and useful publication now than it was a year ago --and of how many magazines can that be said?

(Alex Calabrese, Buena NJ) As a born-again SWLer, RIB is certainly the best publication. What really impresses me is that it draws its life blood from its readership.

OBSERVATIONS BASED ON READING THREE ISSUES OF RIB

by Jack Belck, Knoxville TN

The SW info from hither and yon is 4+, as are bits such as CBC transcripts. BUT--there is far too much long-winded, addlepated, even tendentious pseudophilosophizing which has apparently reached its nadir with the doctoral dissertationizing of SW -- the kiss of death for anything remotely connected to pleasure.

So, how about approaching SW in less of an intellectual dither, and with more attention paid to hard--perhaps even bitter--facts?

To judge from most SW mailbags, the majority of correspondents are either pre-pubescent boys or socially deviant/Category Four pubertised lads who prefer chasing fugitive stations more than girls. This sweeping specificity does not apply to BBC LETTERBOX, which seems to attract largely petulant, peevish folk of the Geritol Generation. Both groups--whether gonadal or geriatric, concentrate on personal preferences. Their questions are infantile, silly or irrelevant:

"Why can I no longer hear RADIO NEWSREEL on 15.215 on Sundays, 3:00 am Brisbane time?"

"Do Soviet citizens collect postage stamps?"

"Can I have a free pennant?"

"Why don't you play more songs by The Who?"

"Why wasn't Joe Clark allowed to finish out his four-year term?"

It may be, therefore, that mailbag programs have been cut back just to reduce the amount of drivel beamed over the airwaves. (A thought: if the USSR based its opinions of the US's ability to function mentally on Radio Moscow's sampling of the letters arriving from these shores, it's no wonder they invaded Afghanistan. Even if we wished to initiate a military response, who in the White House would even be able to find the place on a map?)

2. How can there be so much murky, self-conscious analysis of SWLers when we know next to nothing about them? Has the BBC used the tons of listener mail, survey forms and Listener Panel data it gets to prepare an audience profile available to the public? Or at least to me? It's the SW broadcasters who have the info!

3. RIB correspondents constantly talk about the individual listener, ignoring a possibly significant audience: all the nations which closely monitor other nations' SWing. Just why do BBC, RCI, VOA and so many others spend so many $$$ taping and transcribing this stuff?

For example, does VOA hotfoot over to State when it picks up the latest political twist from, say, an Iranian broadcast? In short, do governments perhaps talk to each other via these airwaves? I'd like to know.

4. To what extent does political clout/bureaucratic momentum keep some SW outlets going, even if there is no proof of sizeable listenership? To what extent are SW outlets national prestige symbols, like FM stations at American universities?

5. How about RIB's contributing pundits hashing over the issue of whether or nor small nations can (and often do) do a better job of world affairs analysis simply because they are powerless to affect them in any way? (Under Salazar, Portugal had top analysis of everything outside the country.)

Lastly but not leastly, are there RIB readers who can supply answers to a few questions not dealt with anywhere else I know of? To wit:

a. How does one tell a good receiver from a poor one? Everyone's specs are just dandy. (Remember: there are those of us who don't know anyone nearby who can offer a side-by-side comparison of my Sony CRF-320 and, say, his Yaesu or whatever.)

b. Sure, as gh notes, the WRTVH 80 details table model sets, but what about such likely items as Dames' R390A/URR advertised in the 79 WRTVH? Over the years, I've asked half a dozen big SW stations what their monitoring equipment consisted of and never heard a word on anything specific. Are only consumer market items written up?

gh: A few comments on the above. While the BBC does monitor other stations, as far as I know the VOA does not on any formal basis, nor does RCI; monitoring in these countries is handled by other government agencies (in the US, the Foreign Broadcast Information Service). It's part of any large country's intelligence function. The introduction to the WRTVH article should be of some help in generally learning how to tell a good receiver from a bad one. RACAL is the word among professional monitors.

SHORTWAVE CURIOSITIES (from ADXL Argentina DX Feb-Mar) BBC/R. Sweden: Comparing the transmissions in Urdu of the BBC and in Sweden of R. Sweden: the affinity existing in the pronunciation of the Swedish and Urdu languages as well as the incredibly similar voices of the respective announcers. If you want to confirm this tune in the BBC on 9825 and R. Sweden on 11705 at 0100-0130; surprise!

THE A M S I R CODE

by Lamont M. Jensen

The SINPO and the SIO codes are useful, but for certain applications they do not tell the complete story. For these purposes, where a supplemental reporting code may be desirable, I propose the AMSIR code. Before going into details, let us define our terms:

The SINPO code is, as the cryptographers would say, a five-digit position code, with the meaning of the positions from left to right indicated by the letters SINPO: Signal; Interference; Noise; Propagation (sometimes written as Fading) and Overall merit. In each position the relative merit of that factor is indicated by a digit from 1 to 5, with 1 indicating 'very poor' and a 5 indicating 'excellent'. This code has been used for several years by radio station monitors and by DXers and SWLs (Short Wave Listeners) to report reception of radio stations.

The SIO code is a sub-set or variation of the above and has been widely used for reporting reception in DX bulletins where space is at a premium and the additional information is not required.

For a "one-time" report, the above codes are useful and, even for continuing reports, such as by station monitors, they have served the purpose for a more complete report when supplemented by appropriate remarks. However, just as the reason for adopting these codes was to simplify reporting and to offer a standard format, I believe that a supplemental code is needed for reception reports which extend over a longer period of time. All who examine large quantities of reports in the SIO or SINPO codes are aware that the coding by different individuals may vary by one or two levels of merit in one or more of the positions. In other words, the coding is subjective, and is colored by the experience of the coder, and by such transient factors as the time of day or the coders' emotional state. Over a long period of time, a series of reports by any one coder, however, will probably exhibit a good degree of consistency and those who read the reports can soon learn by experience how to "adjust" their interpretation of the coding from that particular individual.

To an experienced listener and reporter, the deficiency most apparent in the SINPO and SIO codes is their lack of means for reporting the audio factor -- how the signal sounds. Another deficiency is the lack of means for reporting consistency of reception over a period of several days or more. To correct these deficiencies, I propose a supplementary reporting code: AMSIR. This, like SINPO, is a five-digit position code, with the meaning of the positions from left to right as follows: Audio; Modulation; Splatter; Intelligibility and Reliability. In each position, the relative merit of that factor is indicated by a digit from 1 to 5 as shown in the chart below:

Audio: 5 = Excellent fidelity, smooth reproduction of music and voice.
4 = Above average sound reproduction.
3 = Average sound, passable reproduction of voice and music.
2 = Poor sound, deficient reproduction of voice and/or music.
1 = Very poor sound, difficult to understand speech.

Modulation: 5 = Apparent 100% modulation.
4 = From 80% to more than 90% modulated. This number may also be used in conjunction with a coding of 3 or 4 in the next position to show over-modulation.
3 = About 50% modulated.
2 = 30% to 40% modulated.
1 = Less than 30% modulated.

Splatter: 5 = A clean signal, no splatter.
4 = A little splatter on adjacent channels.
3 = Heavy splatter on adjacent channels.
2 = Spurious frequencies at some distance from carrier.
1 = Spurious frequencies splattering the entire band.

Intelligibility: 5 = Equal to a local high-fidelity station.
4 = Good, with occasional propagational degredation of the audio.
3 = Average, with regular periods of degredation.
2 = Poor; recurrent severe propagational distortion.
1 = Unusable; unable to understand voice announcements.

Reliability: 5 = Consistent reception on a long-range basis.
4 = Reception is usually good, day after day.
3 = Reception is occasionally good, on a long-term listening basis.
2 = Reception is possible only under very favorable propagation conditions.
1 = Reception almost impossible; cannot be planned with any degree of confidence.

The AMSIR code is not proposed as a replacement for the SINPO or SIO code, but as a supplement to them for reporting long-term reception of stations such as by a station monitor. For this purpose it simplifies and standardizes the reporting, furnishing information in addition to the signal reporting of the other codes.

Your comments regarding the potential usefulness of the AMSIR code will be read with interest by the author in future issues of RIB.

EQUIPMENT FORUM

gh: This is not the type of material I encourage in RIB, as I think it is getting away from the main purpose of the magazine; yet, people keep sending in material about equipment, and it must be admitted that equipment is the means to our listening pleasure, so when space allows I run it. I am not a technical expert and cannot vouch for the accuracy of everything in this section; as elsewhere in RIB, people are expressing their own opinions. Some of this is several months old.

(Louis Goldstein, Grove Hall MA) I do all of my electronic purchases by mail, so would appreciate learning of some reputable mail order houses that sell following items: cassette leader tape, cassette splicing tape, manual cassette tape rewinders, timer to be used for taping off FRG-7, C & D cell batteries for FRG-7 & cassette recorders, TV sound radio. For tape letters where can I purchase short tapes of 5-10 minutes length? Can someone furnish me with address of Olson Electronics with mail order location in midwest? Address of Intermatic Timer Co. would also be appreciated.

(Paul A. Dierks, Port Huron MI, Nov. 5) For those who would like to own a new RF-2200 by Pansonic--by joining "Unity Buying Service" for a $6 fee you can get it for $126.05 or with fee it comes to $132.05. Many other household goodies too at reduced rates! The RF-2200's cat. no. is 3516A15125, weight is 7½ pounds. Address: UBS, Box 1000, 905 East Golf Road, Schaumburg IL 60196. It takes one to two months if you join to receive the big catalog, but sending full payment would still get your order through.

In the "Best" catalog, which is for free, are the RF-2600 with LED display for $199.97, cat. no. 920037RPA19997, weight 8 pounds; the Sony ICF-5900 for $139.84, cat. no. 920029ENY13984, weight 8 pounds; the GE 7-band "Super Seven" for $63.46, cat. no. 620475EGL6346, weight 5 pounds. The address is: Best Products Co., Inc., Catalog Dept., P.O. Box 26303, Richmond VA 23260.

(Richard Stoller, Old Bethpage NY) Electronics Parts Procurement: Despite Steve Kennedy's assertion in RIB 30 that components suitable for receiver construxion are almost totally unavailable to the would-be receiver-builder, I think that if you know where to look, you'll find anything you could possibly want. For once I agree with something in an ARRL publication: Most people who lament 'parts unavailability' in this transistor era really are trying to say "I long for the good old days". Well, they won't come back, except for some R39ØA's and HQ18ØA's still hanging around (which is not to knock them as receivers, but I'll take solid-state, thank you). The parts are most certainly around; read the back of QST, which I find much more interesting than the front /not me! gh/ I could read those ads for hours. All sorts of RF-grade components. I'm not saying "get out there and build a Wadley loop receiver"; on the contrary, I had trouble getting my single-IC flasher circuit (i.e. idiot's delight) to work. I'm just saying that if you have such skills and wish to use them, it's no excuse to say you can't find parts.

(Bill Dambeck, Suitland MD, Oct. 26) Re Syd Osterman's suggestions, Sept RIB, for improving the FRG-7's selectivity, Ralph Sanserino is no longer selling the sharper i.f. ceramic filter, but Radio West does for $25 (with instruxions). If you doubt your soldering ability, they'll install it and ship your set back for $40. They perform a similar service (new ceramic transfilter plus recalibration) for Sony ICF-59ØØW owners for $25.

(Richard Stoller, NY) My FRG-7 is very satisfactory and I daresay I've done quite well with it. I would most certainly recommend it, despite its selectivity problem. For me, I've found the worst problem, besides the selectivity, is cross-modulation. Stations within the same one-megacycle /sic/ chunk come in under each other's carriers like mad. RCI-5960 comes in on every carrier on 5 MHz and 6 MHz too, since 5960 is the low end of the 6 MHz tuning range. It's getting a bit annoying. Another problem in the same vein--has anyone noticed that the 49m band fully duplicates itself from 6200 to 6400 kHz? To get rid of these annoying images, you have to detune the preselector, which desensitizes the receiver and sends the weak stations back into the noise. Very annoying. Also, the noise limiter doesn't work--has anybody ever had an under-1000-dollar rig that had a working noise limiter? Also, exactly what is 'pulse type' noise, which the ANLs are supposed to reduce, anyway? If it's things like the Soviet OTH radar, the ANL sure doesn't work that well on that--in general, the ANL works on the correct (but fundamentally silly) principle that if you desensitize everything, the noise won't be so loud. Sure, but nor will the signals.

(Walt Breville, St. Louis MO) In response to Larry Ledlow's worship of the FRG-7, I believe there is a good reason for a scramble of radio fans to try out the latest new solid-state rigs. Recently I tried out an FRG-7 in my home. It was modified by Radio West with Collins filters, and it performed superbly in most respects, with outstanding selectivity. But this was spoiled by recurring spurious signals and miscellaneous gobbledygook mixing in with whatever genuine weak signals there were on every DX channel that I tried. It was especially bad on medium-wave, and possibly tolerable on shortwave. This critic was brought up on tube receivers culminating in an HQ-180, one of the deluxe series made by Hammarlund from 1959 to 1970. They are 17-tube monsters that became the

standard of fine performance for serious mediumwave DXers, even though they had some bad reviews as well as rave reviews in their early years. Being used to very little to zero intrusion of spurs on weak-signal or empty channels, I found the conglomeration of false signals on the FRG-7 very, very annoying. And so it becomes a temptation to expect a near-perfect rig for just a little more money spent--say $500-600 instead of the $300 for an FRG-7. However, I got the impression from the review of current receivers in the new 1980 WRTVH that it takes $1500 or so for a Drake DR-7 to get fine DXing performance on both MW and SW without spurs or false signals messing up the weaker channels. For those of us on a budget, I am leaning to the Panasonic digital-readout models such as the RF-2900 or RF-4900; they are said to have "very good" audio fidelity, according to 1980 WRTVH, which would to me make up for the spurs and overloading they may have, or the selectivity of more expensive rigs. Like many shortwavers, I am more into just listening and casually tuning about, and avoid getting into trying for 200 countries, or any competition, like the plague.

VERY GOOD or BETTER AUDIO is something that has been neglected in almost all communications receivers, until very recently. Of course, the limited bandwidth and presence of some distortion and noise in most shortwave broadcasts negates the ability of any receiver to deliver the sheer, imposing presence of sound resembling that from a large component stereo receiver and large loudspeaker system from local FM stations. But I feel that over $300-400 spent on a shortwave rig should result in audio quality (with external speakers) comparable to that of the better quality AM radios in large or intermediate size US automobiles--which is not true hi-fi, but much, much better than almost all communications rigs I have heard. The GE Superadio with AM-FM only (and also good DXing performance on AM at least) and self-contained 6½" speaker is a fine step in this direction; hopefully radios like this with SWBC coverage will appear in the future. The Superadio is widely available in the St. Louis area; prices range from $49 to $65. There is not a better bargain for MW DXers than this one, now.

(Richard N. Allen, Billings OK) There seems to be a renewed interest in high-fidelity AM receiving equipment. The new Sansui TU-X1 ($980) features entirely separate AM and FM sections, with separate S-meters, channel-center meters, tuning controls and outputs. The tuner has selectable i.f. bandwidth and muting for both AM and FM. The Sansui TU-919 ($585) includes selectable i.f. bandwidth for the AM section, as well as digital readout. The low-cost Pioneer TX-6800 is said to have, according to Stereo Review, improved AM performance. Maybe in the future, MW DXers will turn to hi-fi equipment for replacement of their old worn-out communications receivers. The TU-X1 definitely looks interesting, except for price. The McKay-Dymek DR-33C receiver is reviewed in the September issues of QST and Audio. Both reviews were generous in praise.

(Malcolm Kaufman, NY) I know you do a lot of taping; so do I but I have yet to see a decent timer that would allow one to record programs while out. The mechanical timers designed to foil burglars by turning lights on and off are simply not accurate enough to be of much use. I see that Texas Instruments, according to the Jan. Stereo Review, is coming out with a digital clock/timer. But the brief report didn't make it clear if this was a circuit that would be incorporated in big ticket home entertainment products or a separate device that could be purchased on its own by the consumer. If the latter is the case, it will apparently still be some time before it's available on the market. Any ideas for the meantime?

gh: I use an old Micronta timer (no longer available; the current models aren't nearly as good), which has minimum 'on' time of 15 minutes, and is accurate to less than a minute, once carefully set. Resetting the stops is tricky, however, to avoid resetting the clock at the same time!

(Richard Mansfield, Philipsburg PA) An excellent and simple addition to any SWL's receiver is a 24-hour clock. Simple because Radio Shack offers a miniature LCD Clock Module (part 277-1005) with all electronics complete in a wafer you can glue to screw onto your unit. All one needs do is attach a few wires to the module to control the setting of the time, date and day of week. It also functions as an alarm. Instructions, included, are easy to follow and anyone who can solder can attach it in an hour or so. It draws a mere 6 ua and should run on the 60¢ size N battery for about a year A spot of solder on the module itself allows the user to program either 12 or 24 hour, date/month (European) or month/date, operation. The operation is fine, but finding a battery holder or the little size N can be a problem. However, adding a small spring to the widely available size AA holders will work fine. One warning: it must not be allowed to operate at temperatures below 41°F or it fails. With the battery disconnected, however, it can be exposed to temperatures down to 14°F. It has a ± 13 sec/month accuracy and even that seems to be adjustable via a small screw on the unit.

(Syd Osterman, Ont.) For taping from mono radio to stereo recorder, don't use a 'mono adapter plug' but a mono to stereo wye cable, with a miniature plug (for an RF-2800) and suitable plugs for the stereo deck inputs. Ready made cables can be obtained from Radio Shack, Lafayette, Olsen, etc. Generally, avoid adapter plugs. Either the contacts are not correct or intermittents develop. Change to the proper plug or cable and avoid problems.

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